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EXPLORING CHARACTERS IN NEW WAYS

Here are some ideas for writers who have established characters to help them develop them more. These exercises would suit any group where the members are writing a novel, they allow the writers to take a character and see them in a new way.

Draw your character

It's fun to draw one of your characters. Crafting a character description can be hard, but creating a visual depiction to refer to can sometimes help.

A character's point of view

Write a standalone scene from the first-person point of view of your central character if they're usually described in third-person. This can help you get a more immediate understanding of how your character thinks and feels. You might also try writing from the point of view of a minor character, to see his or her story in a new light.

Your character as seen by others

Write a few short scenes where your character is observed by others, how do other people perceive them?

Your character as they describe themselves

Imagine your character as they show themselves to the world. What would they write on their social media bio? How would they write a dating profile? How would they introduce to themselves to a stranger? Try writing one or two of these things.

Take your characters to dinner

Take a few of your characters and write a standalone scene where they are all gathered around a table for a group dinner.

A timeline of defining moments

Create a timeline of the significant moments of your character's life. Consider the most important incidents that have shaped your character, create the stories from the past that might have shaped their personality.

A letter from the future

Imagine your character in their old age and have them write a letter to your character about their life and all they've learned. What advice would they give their younger self?

A letter from your character to you

Write a letter from a character in your novel to you, the author, explaining why you should write about them. This can help identify the qualities that make your character interesting to any reader.