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QUICK CHARACTER EXERCISES

Ask writers to create a minor character based upon someone they dislike. Now have another character encounter this character and feel sympathy and empathy for them despite their faults.

Have a character tell a story inside a pre-established form, perhaps through work reports, an email exchange, text message, or social media posts.

Write about a character who does something they swore they would never do.

Ask your writers to write a paragraph where a character does a simple action, like turning on a light switch, and make the reader marvel at how strange and odd it truly is.

Write about two characters who are angry at each other, but have both of them pretend the problems don't exist. Instead, have them fight passive-aggressively, through small, snide comments.

Describe a character walking and describe exactly how he walks. Try to ensure the reader will understand his personality simply by the way you describe his walk.

Write a first-person narrative of a character under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and try to make the prose as woozy or tipsy as the character.

Write an argument where a husband or wife complains of a physical ailment, but their spouse refuses to believe it's real.

Describe a small personality trait about a person you love, and ensure the reader loves them, too.

Give a character an extremely unusual response to a national tragedy like a terrorist attack or natural disaster. Maybe the character is aware their response is unusual, or perhaps they are completely unaware and display it without any self-consciousness.