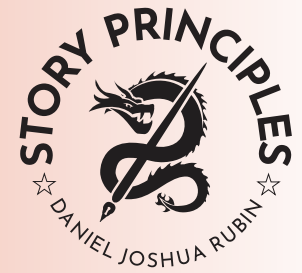


Master Character Design Cheat Sheet



Here are seven key take-aways from this course:

1. It's hard to define what a "well-developed" character is, so focus on fully inhabiting each one you write and executing the nine essential principles of character. Trust that if you make them active and decisive, provoke dilemma, and write them to the top of their intelligence (to name a few), they will be well-developed.
2. One great joy of writing is that it allows you to expand your conception of yourself. Every character you write, even characters based on other people, is generated from your mind and part of you. Over-the-top as it may sound, they are like ambassadors from your soul.
3. Each character must have a unique look, tone, and feel, but still belong to a unified set. Consider the cast of any story you love and notice how 1) they all belong in the same world, and 2) no two are exactly alike.
4. All characters exist in relation to the hero.
5. Conflict reveals character. Within reason, the more conflict the better. If your character has inner conflict, conflict with people they know, with society's biggest institutions, and the physical world, their character is developed by the ways they handle each of these conflicts.
6. Treat every character as if they are the main character of their own story. The only thing that makes a "minor" character minor is we see less of them. Give each their own unique perspective, needs, and desires.
7. The arc of your story details the hero's transformation. Track each moment of that transformation and glean as much insight as you can. One of your most important and hopefully enjoyable tasks is to explore why things change.

