If a play only had one character, we’d be writing a one-person (or one-actor) play, but since we want to also learn to write dialogue (two-speaking) than we need to create more than our MAIN CHARACTER. TODAY, we are going to create the SUPPORTING CHARACTERS of your play. They help or hinder (get in the way of) the main character in the play. A HELPER CHARACTER is called a COMPANION. A HINDERER CHARACTER is called a FOIL. Let’s create them.

FIRST
THINK about the main character you created, then THINK about who would help support your main character—a friend, a sibling, a mentor, a teacher, a parent? THINK about who would hinder your main character— an enemy, a villain, an ex-friend, etc. USE YOUR IMAGINATION. HAVE FUN.

SECOND
AFTER THINKING ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER - WRITE ABOUT THEM! ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR BOTH the COMPANION CHARACTER and the FOIL CHARACTER.

You can write your answers on a piece of paper or type them up on a tablet or computer.
ALL ABOUT MY COMPANION CHARACTER

1) GIVE YOUR CHARACTER A NAME. And then, Age? Siblings? Where do they live? What is their relationship to the main character?

2) LIST FIVE THINGS YOUR CHARACTER LOVES:
   1) 
   2) 
   3) 
   4) 
   5) 

3) LIST FIVE THINGS YOUR CHARACTER HATES (things not people):
   1) 
   2) 
   3) 
   4) 
   5) 

4) What is your character’s favorite place in the whole world? Write about why this is their favorite place. Tell a story about it even.

5) What is the best or worst (you choose) gift your character has ever received? Write about why. Tell a story about this too.

6) What is the most challenging thing your character has ever done? Write about why. This can be a story too.

7) What is your character’s greatest ambition? (This is the one thing your character wants to do more than anything else) Why? Is there a story behind it?
ALL ABOUT MY FOIL CHARACTER

1) GIVE YOUR CHARACTER A NAME. And then, Age? Siblings? Where do they live? What is their relationship to your main character?

2) LIST FIVE THINGS YOUR CHARACTER LOVES:
  1) 
  2) 
  3) 
  4) 
  5) 

3) LIST FIVE THINGS YOUR CHARACTER HATES (things not people):
  1) 
  2) 
  3) 
  4) 
  5) 

4) What is your character’s favorite place in the whole world? Write about why this is their favorite place. Tell a story about it even.

5) What is the best or worst (you choose) gift your character has ever received? Write about why. Tell a story about this too.

6) What is the most challenging thing your character has ever done? Write about why. This can be a story too.

7) What is your character’s greatest ambition? (This is the one thing your character wants to do more than anything else) Why? Is there a story behind it?
WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CHARACTERS

DRAW A PICTURE OF BOTH YOUR COMPANION & FOIL CHARACTER

What are they wearing? Is this their costume for the play? Are they doing something in the picture? Use some of your writing to inspire this drawing.

MAKE A CHARACTER STICK PUPPET

Draw both characters, much like you did above and make sure they are at least 8 inches tall. Make sure to draw them in their costume. Cut out each drawing and add fabric scraps to their costume and maybe even hair, fur, etc. Tape the cut-out characters onto a popsicle stick, a small dowel, a straw or plastic spoon or knife. Ta-da! You’ve a created the companion character and foil character of your play.

WRITE YOUR CHARACTERS A SHORT MONOLOGUE TO PERFORM

Monologue means – “one speaking” You have characters, so write words for them to say to an audience. Have them tell the audience exactly who they are. Use the answers to the character questions as inspiration. Practice speaking for your characters. Use the words you wrote. Record your characters performing their monologues.

NEXT WEEK

We’ll create the SETTING for your play and OUTLINE the play’s action scene by scene.