



# BUILD~A~PLAY SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

If a play only had one character, we'd be writing a one-person 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. These characters either help or your main character. The helper is called a COMPANION CHARACTER. The one that hinders the main character is called a FOIL CHARACTER.

## 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

## WRITE YOUR COMPANION & FOIL CHARACTERS A MONOLOGUE

Monologue means – “one speaking” Write words for your companion character to speak to an audience. Then, do the same for your foil character. Use the answers to the questions as inspiration. Think of the audience as the character’s confessor. Your character is not afraid to tell the audience anything. They will tell the audience everything. Don’t be afraid to use emotion for your character. Have them tell the audience exactly who they are.

## PERFORM THE MONOLOGUE IN CHARACTER

Practice speaking for your characters. Use the words you wrote. Become the character you wrote. Perform the monologues you wrote as the characters. Record yourself performing the monologue. Or share it with a friend and have them perform it and record it.

## NEXT TIME

We’ll create your play’s SETTING and OUTLINE the play’s DRAMATIC ACTION.