



Exercise Three – The Characteristic Moment

Before you can craft a perfect Characteristic Moment, you must first know something about your protagonist. Answer the following questions to find out more:

What is your character's name?

How old is your character?

What nationality is your character?

What is your character's occupation or primary identity?

Does the character have any important physical characteristics (e.g. no arm, limp)?

Name three prevailing aspects of the character's personality (e.g. kindness, bad temper, funny):





What one important personality trait, virtue, or skill best describes your character?

How can you dramatise this aspect of your character to its fullest extent?

How can you dramatise this aspect in a way that also introduces the plot?

What do you want readers to find most sympathetic and/or interesting about this character?

How can you dramatise this aspect of your character in an opening scene?





What is your character's overall story goal?

How can you set up this goal or show the coming need for it in an opening scene?

In your first chapter, how can you dramatise the contrast between your Truth-fulfilled protagonist and the Lie-ridden characters around him?





List events or activities you can use in your opening chapter to dramatise it. Try to think of “big” moments that are unique, visually engaging, and keep the characters in motion.

Write a summary of your opening chapter and how you will introduce your character in a memorable and engaging Characteristic Moment:

Which of the following does your Characteristic Moment accomplish?

- Introduce character
- Reveal character’s name
- Indicate character’s gender
- Indicate character’s age group
- Indicate character’s nationality
- Indicate character’s occupation
- Indicate any important physical characteristics
- Indicate character’s role in the story (i.e. protagonist)
- Demonstrate prevailing aspect of personality
- Hook readers’ sympathy and/or interest
- Show character’s scene goal
- Indicate character’s story goal
- Demonstrate (or at least hint at) character’s Truth
- Move the plot directly or through foreshadowing





If you're unable to combine most of the above elements into one scene, answer whether it would work better to divide the necessary characteristic elements into two or more scenes.

