

Student-Actor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Assignment Due: \_\_\_\_\_

 **WORKSHEET: CHARACTER ANALYSIS— “Who am I?”**

PLAY TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

MY CHARACTER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(All information must be written or printed legibly in PENCIL. You will be making changes!)

**Physical Traits and Appearance**

— External aspects —

“My” age is? \_\_\_\_\_

This is an exact age (“23”), not an age range (“early 20s”).

What do “I” look like? \_\_\_\_\_

Physical shape, posture, grooming habits, hairstyle, makeup. Examples of posture would include slumped, stiff, relaxed, timid, grace, assuredness, awkward.

Do “I” have any specific type of movements or gestures? \_\_\_\_\_

Examples would be to walk with a stride, plod, shuffle, or bounce. Do the movements and/or the gestures convey poise, nervousness, weakness, strength? How does the movement indicate age, health, attitude?

Do “I” have any mannerisms or handicaps? \_\_\_\_\_

Mannerisms: These are also called “leading gestures” or a movement that your character unconsciously uses throughout the play. Examples would be bite nails, play with hair, clear throat, keep hands in pockets, chew gum, scratch head, doodle on paper, pick lint from clothes.

Where is “my” center? \_\_\_\_\_

Every character has a “Center.” This is an imaginary area inside or outside the body where the character's impulses for all movement originate.

What do “I” wear? \_\_\_\_\_

Dress habits, clothing. Examples would be neat, casual, sloppy, prim, clean, dirty, clothes in good taste, flashy, fashionable, well-groomed, traditional, nonconformist.

What are “my” speech patterns and voice type? \_\_\_\_\_

Examples would be regional or ethnic accents, a twang, a drawl, high pitched, deep, slow, fast.

“My” health is \_\_\_\_\_

What is “my” primary sense? \_\_\_\_\_

Sight, hearing, smell, touch? How do I demonstrate this in my character?

**Atmosphere**

Where am “I” living? \_\_\_\_\_

Country, state, community, rural, suburban, city, inner city

What is the play's period or time? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the time of year? (season, weather) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the time of day? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is “my” favorite place in the setting? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is “my” most disliked place in the setting? \_\_\_\_\_

**Character’s Background**

—What is my life story? What is my history? How does my past shape my present?

“My” temperament/personality is? List at least 4 adjectives which specifically describe “my” emotional traits, complexes, neuroses, obsessions, superstitions.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Some examples would be: confident, outgoing, happy, poised, sullen, confused, nervous, cynical, timid, hot-tempered, bored, blasé, antagonistic, addled, slow-witted, submissive, fearful, arrogant, vain, rude, meticulous, lazy, egotistical, smug, polite, careless, introverted, extroverted.

How much education have “I” had? \_\_\_\_\_

Include favorite or hated subjects studied.

What are “my” mental characteristics? \_\_\_\_\_

Intelligent, clever, dull, slow, average.

“My” marital status is? \_\_\_\_\_

Single, married, divorced, children.

What is “my” ethnic background? (nationality, race) \_\_\_\_\_

What is “my” occupation/profession/job? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of work do you do?

Are you happy with your work? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What are “my” interests, hobbies, amusements? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

“My” family background and family life: Was/is “my” family rich, poor, middle-class? \_\_\_\_\_

Upper, middle, lower class?

Where did “I” grow up? \_\_\_\_\_

And what do I remember about the neighborhood?

What were the circumstances of “my” growing up?

And how do they influence or act upon “me” today. Also, what is “my” favorite childhood memory?

What is “my” worst childhood memory? What was/is “my” relationship with my family?

“I” have the following brothers and sisters \_\_\_\_\_

How many younger and older?

What are the strong influences in “my” life? (family, job, religion, addictions) \_\_\_\_\_

What was and is “my” economic situation? \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Situation – Environment**

What is “my” religious/spiritual background? \_\_\_\_\_  
 And what role does it play in my everyday life? \_\_\_\_\_

What are “my” ethics? (morals, beliefs, ideals, ethical code) \_\_\_\_\_

What is “my” political position? \_\_\_\_\_

What is “my” social position? \_\_\_\_\_

What is “my” status: in the world, family, relationships? \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationships**

What are my relationships/feelings (emotional and psychological) to each of the other characters I have contact with? (Use an additional sheet if you need more space.)

Like, dislike, indifferent to, et cetera. This might include briefly describing your relationship to the other characters. This could include “status” relationships. Why are we together? (Do “I” like him/her? Does he/she like “me”?)

*Character’s name*

*Feelings about*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Significant relationships: What do I need from each? (Use an additional sheet if you need more space.)

*Character’s name*

*What do I need?*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Significant relationships: What do I get from each? (Use an additional sheet if you need more space.)

*Character’s name*

*What do I get?*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Who do “I” like the most in the play? And why? \_\_\_\_\_

Who do “I” like the least in the play? And why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Questions**

The following questions are not necessarily answerable for every character.

Do “I” have animal characteristics? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which animal?

What rhythm do I associate with my character? \_\_\_\_\_  
Example: steady swinging of a pendulum.

What personal sound do I associate with my character? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
Example sighing, wheezing, grunting.

What object do I associate with my character? \_\_\_\_\_

“My” favorite foods, meal, drink, restaurants are? \_\_\_\_\_  
Include homemade foods I ate as a child.

“My” favorite music is? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

“My” favorite color is? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

The color “I” associate with my character is? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
“The character is blue green” et cetera.

What is “my” favorite time of day, season? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Other exercises to engage your nonverbal creativity:

Make a collage of my character.

Draw a relationship map for my character.

If my character were a game piece, make a game board for the play.

Create metaphors about my character:

“I walk like a \_\_\_\_\_.”

“I talk like a \_\_\_\_\_.”

“If I were an animal I’d be a \_\_\_\_\_.”

“If I were a color I’d be \_\_\_\_\_.”

Use a metaphor to describe each of my character’s relationships:

“The relationship between me and \_\_\_\_\_ is like the relationship between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

Do a metaphor for each of your significant relationships.

***ALWAYS MAKE SPECIFIC CHOICES!***