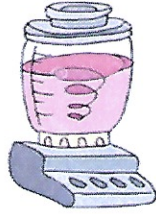


# How to Make a Fictional Character



**1 part-Exterior looks**

**Sprinkle with memorable features**

**Add in hair and eye color**

**Dash of interest such as freckles, thick lips, tattoos and scars**

**2 parts- Personality**

**Stir in details from your backstory such as kindness or dishonesty**

**Blend your sources to hide real identities**

**3-Frost with a good name and embellish**

**Serve warm or cold depending on your genre**

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## Sources for the Backstory

1. Movies (Favorite characters)
2. Books (What made them memorable?)
3. Plays- (Have you acted in a play? How did you interpret that character? Have you written a stage or screen play?)
4. Travel/people watching/ perfume counters, church, construction sites, theme parks, conferences, funerals, weddings (Writing Guild meetings)
5. Hats-Cowboy hats, sailor hats, knit caps, bonnets, baseball hats (Try on hats that you'd never normally wear. Be someone different and think about life from another perspective.) Try this with shoes. Have you ever worn Army boots? Work boots? Hiking boots? Stilettos?
6. Senses/Accents/ Emotions-Are they oozing with a sweet, honey-filled personality or are they a psychologist's worst nightmare? Do they hide their feelings?
7. Jobs-Do you remember some of the unique individuals you worked with?
8. Reality-Your roles as wife, daughter, husband, friend, employee, writer, sister, grandparent
9. Your Hobbies or Collections- So much material here: From dog-walking to singing and baking or quilting. Will your character own a tool box? Does he knit?
10. Friends: "Be nice or you'll end up in my novel."