Character Analysis and Script Work Evaluation Worksheet

Each of the following areas must be addressed to better understand your character in order to make important acting choices. Sometimes the playwright will directly provide the information, more often than not the actor will need to search the text for clues to these areas. Use your imagination (and the information you've already collected) to answer each of the areas.

I. Character Dissection

A. Physical

Everything in this section should describe the outer side of the character, how they are seen and how they appear.

1. Sex *(male or female)*
2. Age *(exact, not approximate)*
3. Health *(the current state)*
4. Clothing
5. Defects *(scars, etc.)*
6. Appearance *(overall)*
7. Shape
8. Props or Hand-held items

B. Social

Everything in this section should describe the life of the character in his/her community, how they have been prepared and how they function with others.

1. Class *(lower, middle, upper)*
2. Occupation *(job)*
3. Education *(how many years in school, last grade completed)*
4. Home Life *(live alone, with others, married, quality of that existence)*
5. I. Q. *(not always indicated by education)*
6. Race *(Caucasian, etc.)*
7. Nationality *(countries descended from)*
8. Place in Community *(status in society)*
9. Amusements *(what sort of hobbies, activities interest the character?)*

C. Psychological

Everything in this section should describe the inside of the character, how they see themselves and his/her life.

1. Moral Standards *(not just high or low, but give a hint of what is important to your character)*
2. Philosophy *(about their life, characters will give many hints in the dialogue)*
3. Ambitions *(personal goals and dreams)*
4. Disappointments *(opportunities missed)*
5. Complexes *(things which bother or concern your character)*
6. Abilities *(ways in which your character excels in navigating life and its problems)*
7. Qualities *(of a person's character)*
8. Peculiarities *(oddities or unusual character traits)*

II. Character's Dialogue

Find examples by quoting the character's dialogue to show how your character uses language to express themselves.

A. Choice of Words and Phrases *(make a summary statement and then quote words used, unique phrases or combination of words your character employs)*

B. Choice of Images *(make a summary statement and then quote expressions and imagery your character employs)*

III. Character's Objectives

These should not be arrived at until you've assembled the above information.

A. Desire *(your character's super-objective for the play)*

B. Will *(the relative strength or weakness in your character's ability to achieve their desire)*

C. Moral Stance *(describe in some detail the ethics and values of your character)*

IV. Character's Given Circumstances

Answer each of these questions for the monologue or scene you are preparing!

A. Where am I coming from?

B. What was I doing there?

C. Why did I leave?

D. Why have I come here?

E. What will I do here?

F. Whom do I know here?

G. What is my relationship to the people here?

V. Character's Mood-Intensity at the Top

Describe each of these conditions for the monologue or scene you are preparing!

1. Heartbeat
2. Perspiration
3. Stomach Condition
4. Muscle Tension
5. Breathing