

Relationship Maps

The relationships to people and places a character has is a vital component of understanding that role. Here, you will be creating a web of relationships alongside three scene partners for your Trevor.

Boxes= Your Character. Circles=People. Diamonds=Places

- 1.) Take a piece of butcher paper (or tape several sheets of paper together) and draw 4 boxes in the center, large enough to put a name in. Write the name of your Trevor in one of the boxes. The other three characters will be given names by other students. These will be important characters in the story.
- 2.) Draw a line from you box to every other box in the square of boxes. Don't label these yet, but these will indicate how you feel about that character. When you're done, there should be one line going to and one from you for every box.

The following sections are for each part of your characters history. You'll be connecting your character to other characters and places that were important to your character during these times.

- 3.) Youth:
 - a. Draw 2 circles for people who are important to you. Add a relationship descriptor each time you put down a circle or diamond.
 - b. Draw 1 Diamond for a place that is important to you.
 - c. Connect 1 Circle or Diamond you drew to another Circle or Diamond
- 4.) Middle School:
 - a. Draw 2 circles and 1 Diamond.
 - b. Draw a line between your box and a Diamond or Circle put down off of another Main character.
- 5.) High School:
 - a. Draw 2 Circles and 1 Diamond
 - b. Connect 1 Circle or Diamond you drew to a Main Character
 - c. Draw 2 lines between your box and a Diamond or Circle put down off of another main character.
- 6.) Post High School:
 - a. Draw 1 Circle
 - b. Connect 1 Main Character to one of the Circles or Diamonds coming off of your Trevor.
 - c. Connect 1 Circle Main characters (square)

7.) Now you've got details about the lives of your main character. Decide the following:

a. What is your character's goal?

- i. This may be paired with a practical goal (they want something or to achieve something) but the important part is what's the emotional need that should be fulfilled by this goal.

Examples:

- 1. Practical Goal: I want to take over my father's company
- 2. Emotional Goal: I want approval from my father or I want to vanquish my father or I want respect from those who thought I wasn't good enough.

b. What are your character's dramatic poles?

- i. Think of this as two drives that pull the character in opposite directions.
- ii. It could be what they desire vs. the trait that makes them least likely to attain that desire.
- iii. It could be two emotional traits of the character.

Examples for the above:

- 1. Ambition vs. inexperience
- 2. Loyalty vs. addiction
- 3. Company man vs. family man

c. For your character, complete the following thought: My story is about a person who _____.

Your Trevor

You will create your own character and the background around them. You'll then write a story using that character, but that story will need an unreliable narrator.

Your Trevor:

Name:

How old?

Education?

Where do they live?

Job?

Family ties?

What are his or her aspirations?

What keeps him or her from achieving them?

Relationship status? Why?

Which emotional state that we've looked at defines this character.