

Grades: 9th-12th

## Creating Deeper Characters

Common Core Standard(s): CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3A ; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3E

Materials Needed: 'Psychoanalyze Your Characters' handout (included below) and pencil or chromebook/laptop for each student

Objective: Students will be able to look at deeper needs of characters to create a more well rounded protagonist and antagonist. They will use the brainstorm to either create a new story or fix an old story.

### Lesson Plan

1. Watch Erin Stewart's class called 'The Psychology of What Your Characters Want.' After the video, have students share some of the ideas they felt were super important when creating characters.
2. Share or hand out the sheet titled 'Psychoanalyze Your Protagonist and Psychoanalyze Your Antagonist'. Have students choose a partner as well.
3. Using the information from Erin's class, students are either going to create brand new characters or take characters they've written about already this year and fill out the sheets for both the protagonist and the antagonist.
4. Using the information from their character creation, students should then either plot a story they could write using the characters or go back into the story with those characters and fix it to make it better.

# Psychoanalyze Your Protagonist

What is the character's name? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the UNMET need?

What is the WOUND?

What is the FEAR?

What is the LIE?

What does your character WANT?

What does your character NEED?

What is the OBSTACLE?

# Psychoanalyze Your Antagonist

What is the character's name? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the UNMET need?

What is the WOUND?

What is the FEAR?

What is the LIE?

What does your character WANT?

What does your character NEED?

What is the OBSTACLE?

### *\*Advanced Application Activity*

#### *Editing Skills:*

*For extra practice to reinforce today's topic you may assign students to work, in class or at home, on a page/chapter of their novel or a short story using their class notes on the key techniques learned today of analyzing the psychology of what their characters would want.. The papers can be exchanged with other students for peer review with specific attention to just the topic of focus. This will enhance editing skills and further engrain the lesson.*

#### *Revising Skills:*

*When the papers are returned students have the opportunity of fine tuning the skill of taking feedback and applying it to revision and rewrite of their manuscript.*

#### *Group Discussion:*

*After rough draft and final draft are returned it may be helpful to share what was most helpful or difficult about the feedback and how it may have helped to improve their writing.*