

STORY CON

LESSON PLAN

Grades: 6th-12th

Creating Strong Characters

Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.A and CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.B

Materials Needed: Paper and Pencil or a Chromebook/Laptop

Objective: Students will use the concept of nature versus nurture to create a well rounded story character.

Lesson Plan

1. Watch [Jo Schaffer's](#) class on **"Being Your Characters Therapist."**
2. After watching the class, talk about how creating a strong character is central to a strong story. If a reader doesn't believe in the main character they generally won't finish reading the story.
3. Pass out or have students pull up the Strong Character sheet included below. Have students choose one of the characters they've written this year and fill out the sheet for their character.
4. When they are done, they can share their information with a partner. If they finish early, they can do the same thing for any secondary characters or for their antagonist.
5. Finish up by reiterating the importance of knowing and understanding your story characters so that you can write their reactions and motivations in a more realistic way as the story you write unfolds.



Strong Characters

Character Name: _____

1. What is their temperament?
2. What is their personality like?
3. What is their family background?
4. How has their place of growing up shaped them?
5. What kind of school do they go to?
6. What is their reputation at the school they go to?
7. What is the culture of the city or neighborhood they grew up in?
8. What era or time period did they grow up in and how did it affect them?
9. What is the worst thing that happened to them growing up?
10. What is the best thing that happened to them growing up?
11. What are some of their weaknesses?
12. Go to <https://www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test> and answer the questions as if you are the character you are writing. What are some of the main takeaways you found out about your character?



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****EXTRA WRITING PRACTICE: All ages (optional)***

For extra writing practice and to reinforce today's topic, have students finish their first page in class or at home. Continue the class discussion of identifying the elements suggested in video or exchange papers for peer review.

Editing Skills:

Manuscripts may be exchanged with other students for peer review, with specific attention focused on how the topic of the day was applied. This will enhance editing skills, while simultaneously further ingraining the lesson at hand and the added benefit of "fresh eyes" giving input on their work.

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/Reflection:

After rough draft & final draft are returned it may be valuable to share what was most helpful or difficult about the feedback and how it may have improved their writing. (Writing clubs can meet online or in person for group discussions)

Extra Credit Opportunities:

Submitting work can be a scary/rewarding experience, no matter the outcome. Offer extra credit incentive for students who create & submit entries at storycon.org/contests for the chance to be recognized, awarded & potentially published. in the [TWEEN 1st Paragraph, Teen 1st Line, 1st Chapter, Teen Anthology, Poetry & Photography Cover Contests.](#)

ATTEND WRITING WORKSHOP: Offer make up credits to students who attend live [StoryCon](#) writing conferences. The largest teen writing conference in the nation, with master writing classes for Teens, Tweens & Educators taught by award winning authors.

Educators: Earn relicensure & up to 5 hours graduate credits from SUU by attending Educator Base Camp. Bring a group for a free Educator Pass.*



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CHALLENGE:

- Encourage students to continue writing on weekends, holiday breaks and over the summer.
- Join or Start a school Writing Club* that meets at lunch or after school*
- Better Together! Create or join writing clubs online or in person, to watch & work through TABCClassroom.com together! (invite friends from school, StoryCon or our moderated TABC discord/other safe writing discussion board)*

*extracurricular writing classes may involve school licensed students or those with an annual personal subscription. If they need a subscription, have them visit TABCClassroom.com

- FOLLOW UP!** Send feedback!. I'd love to hear how you use Classroom, suggest edits, what you like most, classes, contests, conference experiences & creative ways you incorporate it all into your curriculum. sarah-noel@operationliteracy.org

- SHARE TABCClassroom.com** with a friend or school. Invite them to StoryCon.org & "tell the teacher" ([email me](mailto:sarah-noel@operationliteracy.org))



If they subscribe to StoryCon's TABC CLASSROOM™ Vault or Register to attend StoryCon, we like to thank "BOOK HEROES!" with a \$6 StoryCon Promo Codes for registration/the merch store.

THANKS

Visit OperationLiteracy.org, to find out more about our next **StoryCon™ with **Educator Base Camp™**, **Teen Author Boot Camp™** & **Tween Author Boot Camp™** Attend our intensive writing conferences in person to learn from the masters, meet favorite authors and to be a part of a supportive writing community that will help students hone their writing skills, get published & boost their confidence. Join the discord server or start your own writing group to do TABC Classroom with friends.*

