

The Interview

Level 3 Character Questions - The Creation Takes Over

Once you've answered both Level 1 and Level 2 questions about your character they should start to take on a life of their own, meaning you should feel them separating from your imagination. Now this isn't a character you're creating or have control over, it's an autonomous being that has secrets, can surprise you, and may even be withholding information from you. In order for your characters to reach their full potential, now is the time to let go of them, and allow them to stand on their own two feet - which means you need to shift from asking questions about them, to asking questions of them. In short: You've got to interview them to get to know them better. Here are the Level 3 questions I use at this stage.

Where did you grow up? Have you ever moved? If so, by choice, or were you compelled?

Describe the town/city where you live.

Describe your family members.

Who do you consider important in your life?

What is your favorite place to eat?

What do you spend most of your time doing? What do you spend most of your money on?

What do you do in your free time (hobbies)?

Do you travel? Where to, or why not?

Do you care about politics? If so, what are your views?

Would you describe yourself as an introvert or an extrovert? How would others describe you?

What is the first thing you do in the morning? Do you have a morning routine?

What is the last thing you do at night before going to bed? Do you have a night routine?

What annoys you?

What are your prejudices? What would others say you are prejudiced about?

What is the worst decision you've ever made? The best?

What would other people say you are always complaining about?

What do you regret?

What makes you uncomfortable?

What do you keep hidden? Where is it hidden? Top shelf? Back of the closet? Is it an object, or information?

What do you want that you shouldn't?

What does even your best friend not know about you?

What do you value the most in other people? Loyalty? Love? Honesty?

Outlook - is the world basically good or basically bad?

What is your word for: good, bad, pretty, ugly, nice, mean, boring, exciting?

Have you ever been betrayed? When, by whom, about what?

Are you "good enough?" If not, who thinks you're not?

What do you believe you know for sure? (What are your controlling beliefs?)

What mood do you find yourself in the most (Happy, frustrated, angry)?

What are you obsessed about?

When were you the most afraid? What scared you & why?

What's the most courageous thing you've ever done? Why did you do it?

When were you the most sad? Why?

What was your moment of greatest joy/accomplishment? Who was proud of you? Who wasn't?

What do you feel most ashamed of?
Do you feel guilt? About what? Who needs to forgive you for it?
What is the thing you're most embarrassed about?
What is your biggest failure? Who knows about it?
What is the greatest deceit you've been involved in?
What is your biggest secret/lie?
Is there a worry you can't shake? What is it? Who knows about it?
Describe a moment of kindness. Done by you, or to you? How did it come to pass that you were involved/there?
Describe a moment of violence. Done to you, or another? How did it come to pass that you were involved/there?
Have you had an experience with death?
What's the best thing that's ever happened to you?
As a child, who was your favorite relative? What happened to that person?
As a child, what was your favorite toy? What happened to it?
What song do you catch yourself singing?
What do you think you need most?
What do you want most?
What would others say you're not worthy of? What do you think you're not worthy of?
What's the most special thing about you? What can you do that no one else can?