**Building Believable Characters**

Using the list below, create a character (or develop one already in the works). Be as specific as possible, using vivid details and imagery that paint a visual picture in the reader’s mind.

1. Name

2. Occupation/Vocation

3. Religion/ Race

4. Physical description

5. Beliefs/ values

6. Failures/Successes

7. Marital status

8. Family background (Born and raised where? Number of siblings? Family make-up?)

9. Hobbies/Sports

10. Attitude towards things (neat or sloppy) Describe a room character enjoys spending time in

11. Schooling: attended how many grades? Favorite teacher and why?

12. Pets? Best Friends or companions? Names and why character is drawn to them

13. Secret treasures

14. Personal Goals/ Dreams

15. Obsessions

16. Fears

17. Talents/ Gifts

18. Taste in books, music, cultural arts, cooking

19. Character strengths

20. Character flaws

**RESOURCES**

Bernays, Anne and Pamela Painter. What If?: Writing Exercises for Fiction Writers. Rev. And expanded ed. New York: HarperCollins, 1995.

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Kress, Nancy. Dynamic Characters. Cincinnati, OH: Writer’s Digest Books, 1998.

Peck, Robert Newton. Fiction is Folks. Cincinnati, OH: Writer’s Digest Books, 1983.

Schmidt, Victoria Lynn. 45 Master Characters. Cincinnati, OH: Writer’s Digest Books, 2001.