Character Chart

Date this chart was completed:

Character's Full Name:

Reason or meaning of name:

Nickname:
Reason for nickname:

PUBLIC APPEARANCE:

Age: How old does s/he appear?
Eye Color: Glasses or contacts:
Weight: Height:

Type of body/build:
Skin tone:
Shape of face:
Predominant feature:
Looks like:
Is s/he healthy?
If not, why not:

FAVORITES:

Character's favorite color:
Character's least favorite color: Why?
Favorite Music:
Least favorite Music: Why?
Food:
Literature:
Expressions::
Mode of transportation:
Daredevil or cautious?
Same when alone?

**HABITS:**

Good habits
Bad habits
Hobbies:
How does character spend a rainy day?

**BACKGROUND:**

Hometown:
Type of childhood:
First memory:
Most important childhood event that still affects him/her:
  Why?
Education:
Religion:
Finances:

**FAMILY:**

Mother:
  Relationship with her:
Father:
  Relationship with him:
Siblings:
  How many?  Birth order:
Relationship with each:
  Children of siblings:
Extended family?
  Close?  Why or why not?

**ATTITUDE:**

Most at ease when:
Ill at ease when:
Priorities:
Philosophy:
How s/he feels about self:
Past failure s/he would be embarrassed to have people know about:
   Why?
If granted one wish, what would it be?
   Why?

PERSONALITY:

Greatest source of strength in character’s personality (whether s/he sees it as such or not):

Greatest source of weakness in character's personality (whether s/he sees it as such or not):

Character's soft spot:
   Is this soft spot obvious to others?
   If not, how does character hide it?

Biggest vulnerability:

TRAITS:

Optimist or pessimist:  Why?
Introvert or extrovert:  Why?
Drives and motivations:
Talents:
Extremely skilled at:
Extremely unskilled at:
Good characteristics:
Character flaws:
Mannerisms:
Peculiarities:
Biggest regret:
Minor regrets:
Biggest accomplishment:
Minor accomplishments:
Character’s darkest secret:
   Does anyone else know?
   If yes, did character tell them?
   If no, how did they find out?
SELF-PERCEPTION:

One word CHARACTER would use to describe self:
One paragraph description of how CHARACTER would describe self:
What does CHARACTER consider best physical characteristic?
What does CHARACTER consider worst physical characteristic?
  Are these realistic assessments?
  If not, why not?
How CHARACTER thinks others perceive him/her:
What four things would CHARACTER most like to change about self? (#1 most important, #2 second most important, etc.)
  1.
  2.
  3.
  4.
  Why?
If change #1 was made, would character be as happy as s/he thinks?
  If not, why not?

INTERRELATION WITH OTHERS:

How does character relate to others?
How is s/he perceived by...
  Strangers?
  Friends?
  Wife/Husband/Lover?
  Hero/Heroine?
How does character view hero/heroine?
  First impression: Why?
  What happens to change this perception?
What do family/friends like most about character?
What do family/friends like least about character?

GOALS:

Immediate goals:
Long range goals:
  How does character plan to accomplish these goals?
  How will other characters be affected?

PROBLEMS/CRISIS:

How character reacts in a crisis:
How character faces problems:
Kinds of problems character usually runs into:
How character reacts to NEW problems:
How character reacts to change:
Why does s/he have the problem s/he does?
How will s/he react to this problem?
Will facing the problem change him/her in any way?

**GENERAL:**

Favorite clothing:                           Why?
Least favorite clothing:                      Why?
Jewelry:
   Other accessories:
Drives:
Where does character live?
Where does character want to live?
Spending habits (frugal, spendthrift, etc):   Why?
What does s/he do too much of?
   Too little of?
Most prized possession:                      Why?

**UNCATEGORIZED:**

Person character secretly admires:              Why?
Person character was most influenced by:        Why?
Most important person in character's life before story starts:   Why?
How does character spend the week before the story starts?

“When I used to teach creative writing, I would tell the students to make their characters want something right away—even if it's a glass of water. Characters paralyzed by the meaninglessness of modern life still have to drink water from time to time.” - Kurt Vonnegut