Abby L. Vandiver

also writing as Abby Collette and Cade Bentley

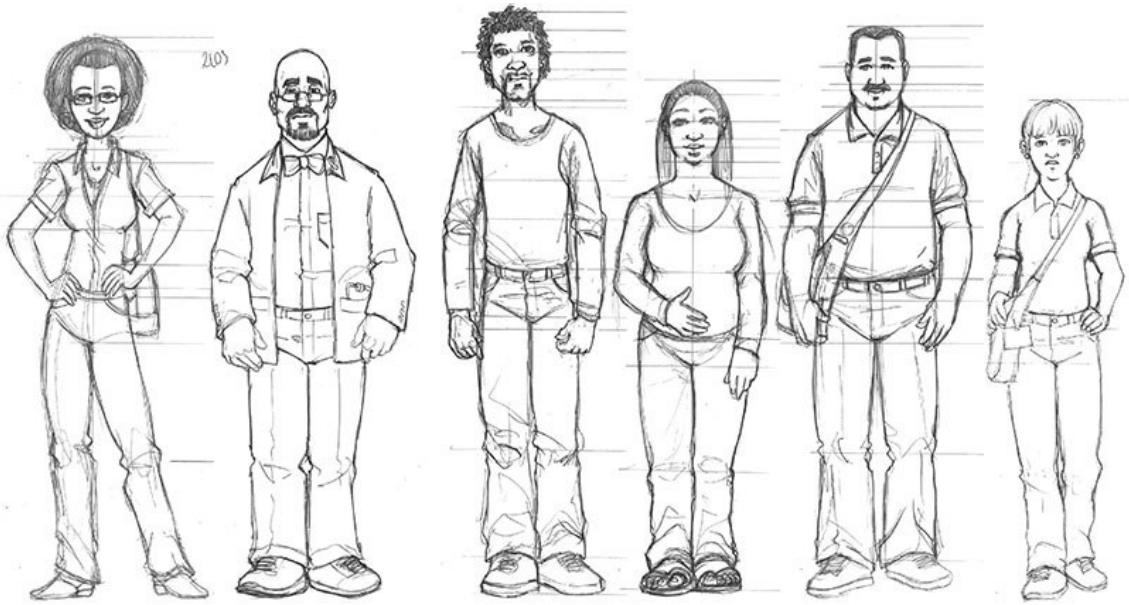
Wall Street Journal, USA Today and international bestselling hybrid author. Have penned more than thirty-five (35) novels and short stories.

GIVE THEM PERSONALITY!

Once you have your character sitting right there in your head, all you really need to do is, wind them up, put them down, and simply write down what they do, say or think.

Terry Pratchett

INTERESTING CHARACTERS



Age. Occupation. Income. Education. Marital status. Relationships. Children/siblings. Languages spoken. Likes and dislikes. Favorite music. Hobbies. Strengths and weaknesses. Special characteristics (movement, speech, laugh, and so on). Favorite sayings. Idiosyncrasies. Birthdate/ Sign of the Zodiac.

Where I'm From

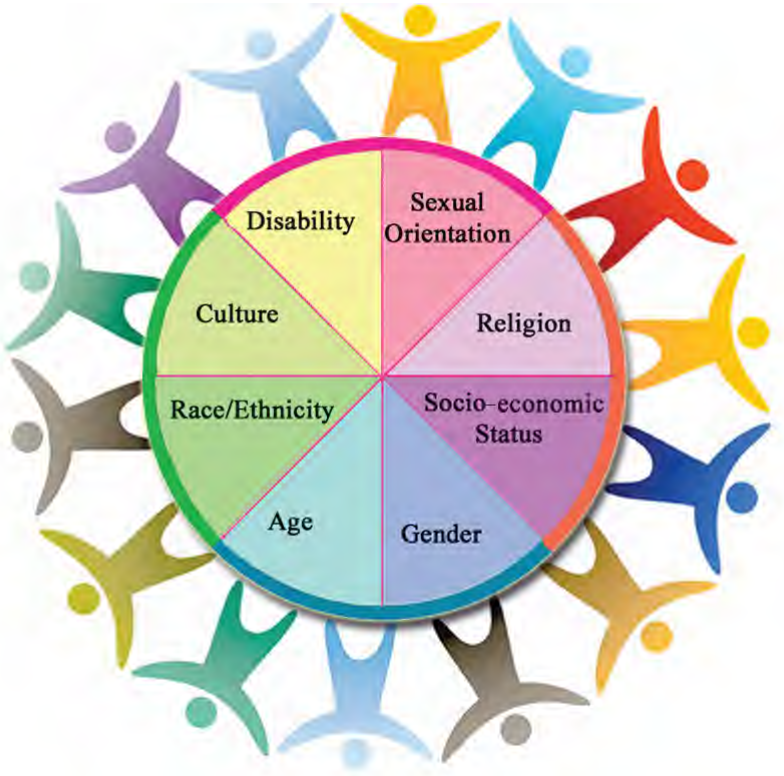
George Ella Lyon

I am from clothespins,
from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.
I am from the dirt under the back porch.
(Black, glistening,
it tasted like beets.)
I am from the forsythia bush
the Dutch elm
whose long-gone limbs I remember
as if they were my own.

I'm from fudge and eyeglasses,
from Imogene and Alafair.
I'm from the know-it-alls
and the pass-it-ons,
from Perk up! and Pipe down!
I'm from He restoreth my soul
with a cottonball lamb
and ten verses I can say myself.

I'm from Artemus and Billie's Branch,
fried corn and strong coffee.
From the finger my grandfather lost
to the auger,
the eye my father shut to keep his sight.

Under my bed was a dress box
spilling old pictures,
a sift of lost faces
to drift beneath my dreams.
I am from those moments--
snapped before I budded--
leaf-fall from the family tree.



Creating Characters

- See characters separately from the stereotypes. Treat your characters as individuals. If you treat them like real people in your story, readers will see them as real, too.

- Give your character a backstory even if it's not all included in your story.

- Choose descriptive details that you observe that don't always include outward features.

Describing Your Character

A “teen girl who describes herself as a slytherin and loves K-pop” is a more evocative descriptor than “a teenager with blonde hair and brown eyes.”

Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors

1. Mirrors - Readers see reflections of themselves in the story.
2. Windows - Readers can see other worlds through the story.
3. Sliding Glass Door – Readers enter into other worlds and demographics.

Sliding Glass Door

Write about the people in the world with you

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Q & A