

Character Analysis

Using what you've discovered in group discussions, research, and through critical thinking, answer the following questions about your character.

As an actor, you must be able to answer every question and understand why every answer is important in creating a character. Some answers will come through discussion, some through research, and some from your own imagination.

1. How old is your character? Why did you choose this particular age?
2. Is your character rich or poor? What evidence did you find in the story to support your choice? What personal or group discoveries did you make about your character's wealth? Give five ways your character might behave because of his or her status.
3. In everyday life, what is your character's emotional attitude (happy, sad, angry, depressed, etc.)? What evidence did you find in the story to support your choice? Give three reasons. What personal or group discoveries did you make about your character's daily outlook on life? (Do not assume that poverty equals sadness/anger or that wealth equals happiness.)
4. What happened to or what was going on with your character just before his or her scene started? (This is called the "moment before." Remember, an audience comes into the *middle* of every scene.)
5. During the course of the story, what does your character NEED? (Read #4 before answering this question.) As an actor, why is it important to know the answer to this question?
6. In life, what is the ONE thing your character WANTS more than anything else? Give three reasons why you made this choice? As an actor, why is it important to know the answer to this question?
7. Your character did not request the gift given. How was he or she feeling just before getting the gift? How did he or she feel after getting the gift? Support your answer.
8. To make the scene exciting, the gift must be played as the BEST thing that EVER happened to the character. Give three reasons why the gift was the character's BEST EVER gift.

