CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Developing strong characters is one of the most important steps of plotting a story. You can go as detailed or as minimal as you like and I tend to balance somewhere in between the two when developing my characters and their journey.

My first step is identifying the character. Their name, their physical appearance, what they do in their everyday life.

From here, I move into the nitty gritty. I analyze the characters and try to figure out what their personality is like. What do they want? What do they need? What is their biggest flaw?

Filling out this template helps me get to the bottom of the character's inner workings so I can plot their actions in the book accordingly. In order to truly understand the character's actions, we must understand their motive and the best way to do that is to get to know them as we would a good friend.

You will find these character development sheets helpful in filling out your character's profile and understanding what it is that makes them tick. More importantly, you will have a better grasp on how your character might react to the obstacles you put between them and their final goal. In my eyes, that is the real meat of character development.

Happy writing!

A.N. Sage

CHARACTER INNER PROFILE

AN SAGE
MAGIC. MYSTERY. MAYHEM.

OUTER LAYER:

Name: _____

Age: _____ Location: _____ Eye Color: _____

Hair Color: _____ Height: _____ Occupation: _____

General Appearance Notes: _____

_____

_____

Other Traits: _____

_____

_____

RELATIONSHIPS:

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Best Friend: _____

Main Enemy (antagonist or other): _____

Love Interest: _____

INNER LAYER:

Past Wounds: _____

_____

_____

Flaws: _____

_____

_____

Emotional Stage at Start of Story: _____

_____

_____

External Behavior Traits (how they portray themselves to others): _____

_____

_____

INNER LAYER (cont'd):

Their Goal (what do they want?): _____

_____

_____

Their Motivation (why do they want it?): _____

_____

_____

The Lie (who they think they are because of their past wound): _____

_____

_____

Their Biggest Strength: _____

_____

_____

Their Biggest Weakness: _____

_____

_____

Internal Struggle (fight between their strength and their flaw): _____

_____

_____

Their True Self (who they are deep inside, the lie disproved): _____

_____

_____

CHARACTER EMOTIONAL STATES

BEGINNING:	MIDDLE:	END: