

# Bourne toWrite...

creative writing  
workshops

If you want to create a realistic fictional character it's worth taking time to follow these 8 points.

1

**Create a basic profile for your character.** No need for detail at this point, just write down basic information, such as name, age, job/class, gender, and other simple checklist one-word things.

2

**Create goals, treasures, and banes.** Everyone you know has a goal, a treasure, and a bane. In *The Lord Of The Rings*, Frodo's goal is to destroy the ring, his treasures are The Shire and his friends, and his Bane is the ring. Keep this very simple.

3

**Based on goal, treasure, and bane, create background.** This will take time, so start by writing one sentence of each, in separate paragraphs, then develop as you see fit and get ideas.

4

**Create idiosyncrasies.** These are like habits or compulsions: nervous eating, phobias, rituals, funny rules about eating (for example: always needing to eat the last bite), quoting books constantly; These are things that will help define your character, and make him/her more human.

5

**Define what it would take to make your character cry.** Crying is the ultimate expression of emotion. Your character doesn't necessarily have to cry, ever. At least on the outside. This helps your audience have empathy for the character.

**6**

**Finish fleshing out the character's flaws.** Does your character hate someone so much that they won't be in the same room? Are they true to themselves and their family/friends? What are their secret weaknesses? Flaws are the final, most important aspect of a realistic character.

**7**

**Get to know your character really well.** Try pretending your character is sitting in front of you, and have a conversation with them, as a four-year-old child would to an imaginary friend. Be serious. While talking to your character you can discover many important things about them, such as speech mannerisms and the way they think, without forcing it. They will come out of the character naturally, and therefore sound natural when you write.

**8**

**Create the character's appearance, background, and personality.** Finish fleshing out your character so that you can take all the notes you have been making and put them into a simpler character sheet.