

# Creating Three-Dimensional Characters

The backbone of good fiction is creating a character people care about and giving that character a challenge that matters.

If you think about your favorite books, you will probably find it was the character that caught your interest. This aspect is influenced by personal preference, yes. But if you take the time to develop a character you like, the odds are someone else will like them too.

Creating your main character is the most important place to start your story. Study people. Mannerisms, gait, accent, expressions can make your character feel real— and real is what you want.

But wait. Isn't this fiction? It is, but if it doesn't seem real, like it could actually happen, your reader will stop reading.

Here's your assignment: create a character with some good qualities and some bad ones. Even a murderer can love his mother-in-law. Unless of course she is the victim...



Three-dimensional in the writing world means believable, rounded or realistic. In the non-writing world it means to stand out or pop up. That's exactly what you're after in creating your main character.