

Character Analysis

Directions: In a well-written, typed document, analyze your character using the script/songs and research. Read through the entire script to get a feel for who your character is and what the other character's think and feel about your character. Explore relationships, background, and motivation. If you have more than one character, complete the questions per character.

Use the following questions to aid you in your analyses.

1. Create a background for your character. Use information from the script, but you may go beyond this as well. Be reasonable. Last name, first name, age, hobbies, place of residence, native language, likes, dislikes, etc... This adds depth to your character.
2. What is my relationship to other character(s) in each scene?
Use facts and feelings to determine relationship.
Examples: Do you love him/her? Do you hate him/her? Do you resent him/her? How much? Do you want to help him/her? Do you want to get in his/her way? What do you want from him/her? What do you want him/her to give you?
3. What are you fighting for? Who is interfering with you getting what you are fighting for?
4. Create the moment before in the scene before you go on stage. Label the scenes on your paper and write this out in the margins of your script. What happens right before that motivates you to enter and interact with other characters?
5. Play the opposites. Whatever you decide is the motivation in the scene, the opposite is also true and should be included in your interpretation. Does your character say one thing and mean another? Underline these lines. Write out in detail what the underlying motivation is? (Sub-text)
6. What are your most important scenes? This does not equal the amount of stage time necessarily. Importance does not necessarily mean

significance to others. What is emotionally important to you at this moment?

7. Find the events in your scenes. Events are changes, confrontations, climax; clear or hidden. A play must move; it must progress. How does your character/actions/emotions/responses help the play to move along?

8. Explore character movement. Answer the following questions:

- What is my posture like?
- How do I walk?
- How do I use my hands?
- What are my distinctive facial expressions?
- Are my gestures large and wide, or small and contained?
- Do I have a master gesture?
- How subtle are my gestures?
- What are the rhythm and tempo of my movements?
- Do I enjoy moving?
- Do I have any difficulty moving?
- How does emotion affect my movements?
- How do my movements reveal what I am thinking or feeling, even if my words say something else?

Make sure that you have reasoning written for every answer!

9. Explore character voice. Answer the following questions:

- What are the pitch, rhythm, and tempo of my words and sentences?
- Do I enjoy talking?
- Do I have any speech problems?
- How does emotion affect my speech?
- What qualities does my voice have?
- How does my voice reveal what I am thinking or feeling, even if my words say something else?
- What words do I emphasize?

Have fun! Be creative! Take this seriously! Remember that these answers change as your character changes, as you know and learn about your character, and as the show changes. This is a work in progress.