

Mining Your Gifted Students' Lives: Writing Rich Short Stories

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Getting to Know You—the Author

Directions: Writing an honest description of yourself will prepare you to portray a fictional character. Answer as many questions as you can, writing down the first response that comes to mind. (Similes and metaphors are welcome!) Afterwards, pick one section and write a concise paragraph summarizing your answers.

Section A: Physical Phenomena

1. I am as tall as _____.
2. My hair looks like _____.
3. When people look at me they think that I _____.
4. My face looks like _____.
5. My greatest physical asset is _____.
6. My eyes look like _____.

Section B: Stuff about School

1. In school I like _____.
2. In school I hate _____.
3. My greatest academic challenge in school is _____.
4. The best thing about getting a good grade is _____.
5. The worst thing about getting a bad grade is _____.
6. My greatest fear in school is _____.
7. My favorite grade in school was _____ because _____.
8. After school I like to _____.
9. One thing I would change about school is _____
because _____.

Section C: Getting Personal

1. My biggest fear is _____.
2. The most exciting thing that I have ever done is _____.
3. I hate _____.
4. I am the most organized when _____.
5. The biggest mess in my life is _____.

6. My greatest accomplishment so far is _____.
7. My biggest dream is to _____.
8. I am looking forward to _____.
9. The most recent fad that I followed is _____.
10. I got in trouble when I _____.

Section D: What's My Fighting Style?

1. When I fight with a friend, I:
 - a) try to pretend that there is nothing wrong between the two of us
 - b) sulk until my friend makes up with me
 - c) get angry and not talk to him or her
 - d) apologize and take the blame
 - e) don't trust her again
 - f) try to solve the problem
2. When I get mad at my parents I:
 - a) trash them to my friends
 - b) go to my room and listen to music
 - c) don't do something which they ask me to do
 - d) try to talk to them
 - e) get sarcastic
 - f) find something wrong about them
 - g) ignore them

Section E: Uniquely Me (Hint: Try to think of a specific situation)

1. When I get nervous, I _____.
2. When I feel angry, I _____.
3. When I am excited, I _____.
4. When I am bored I _____.
5. When I am I embarrassed I _____.

6. When I have a secret I _____.

7. My favorite expression is _____.

Section F: Real Relationships

1. What I wish I knew about boys:
2. What I wish I knew about girls:
3. What I wish my parents understood about me:
4. If I could change one thing about my family it would be:
5. The qualities I value most in a friend:

Section G: The Tough Ones

1. What advice would I give someone a year younger than myself?
2. Has someone ever asked me to do something wrong? What was my response?
3. What concerns me most about myself?

4. What do I wish others would think about me?

5. What worries me most about growing up?

6. What would I like to change about myself?

7. What would I like more than anything else in the world?

8. And I'm not going to get it because:

**Create Your Character:
Make an Information Bank**

Name & age:

Where does this person live? (city, country, ranch, apartment building, castle, villa, boarding house, homeless, army camp, jungle, near an ocean, plantation)

How many brothers/sisters does he have? Who does he live with?

What religion? Nationality? (Parents/grandparents nationalities) Race?

Likes:

Dislikes:

- Food
- Relative
- Famous person
- Hobby/leisure activity
- Sport
- People who ...
- Book
- School subject
- Animal
- Type of clothes. Why?

HINT: What your characters dislikes may show more of his personality than what he likes.

Background:

What is the one thing your character wants more than anything else? Why? What has he already done to try to obtain it? What will he try in the future?

When he was little, what was the most important thing which happened to your character? What was his favorite toy?

What is this person's most irritating habit? Why? What is unique about him? What does his closet look like? How about under his bed?

What does he think about most? What are his dreams? His secrets?

What is the one thing in the world your character would do anything to avoid? Why? What has he already done to avoid it?

Who is your character's enemy?

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