

Character Analysis

Gender:

Age:

Posture:

Appearance:

Defects:

Heredity:

Ambitions:

Frustrations:

Temperament:

Attitude toward life:

Abilities:

Qualities:

Class:

Occupation:

Education:

Home Life:

Religion:

Nationality:

Place in community:

Political views:

Who am I?

And what am I doing here?

You are a character. Your mannerisms, speech, clothing, work, hobbies, all make up your character. Ask a friend how they describe you to someone that doesn't know you, what key elements of your character will they choose to describe you? Your looks, blonde short hair, about 5'5", very energetic, likes music. Etc.

Now to build a character.

When building a persona or character for a faire, you will need to keep it simple at the beginning. Your basic who, what, when, where & how will work well for a guideline.

Who:

Name. This may change as you discover fun ways of saying or spelling a name you like and will answer to.

What:

Your occupation. You may have several things to do during the day. But that does not change your basic occupation. Much like in real life, you may be a store manager, but you also mow the lawn, coach little league, etc. Your faire occupation may be the rag man, but you also help in the innyard, or with the hunt.

Where:

Now this can be many different things, like where do you work, where do you come from, where are you going? Where do you work, if you are the Gravedigger, then you work at the graveyard, so what does the area look like and how do you prepare the area, what props will you need. Where do you come from, are you passing through town, are you a pilgrim visiting the famous abbey? Did you come to town for the faire? Do you live in Shrewsbury?

Why:

Did you come to the faire to buy fabric? Sell a cow, look for a husband? Ask for a pardon at the abbey?

When:

The general time period is late 1500's, Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, so we know that Elizabeth is our queen. Those of us old enough would remember the time of Bloody Mary, Elizabeth's half sister that killed so many people because they would not worship as she, (being the devote catholic that she was.) Do not confuse Bloody Mary with Mary Queen of Scots. These are two different ladies. Shakespeare was not born till 1567. Even so, we still make many references to him in our day to day lives, since the majority of people associated with his type of theater and entertainment.

You will need some perimeters to set up your character.

Must be a village person. Not rich, not noble. Working class or lower. Some can read and write, some can not. Know the current history of Shrewsbury.

When building this character be flexible enough to change as you add to it or subtract from it. There is an amount of freedom when you create a character, you don't necessarily have to claim your child as your own. You don't have to have the same values or opinions as your character. You don't have to have the same heritage as your character.

We will need to share the character outlines we build, so that we will be able to know how to interact with our fellow villagers.

Start your exercise on the next page. Remember to be prepared to change it. And to also learn it wells.

