

Table Work

Actor's Worksheet

To use this worksheet, fill in answers during your table work. You might not have answers for all questions. That's okay. You can also use this in other rehearsals, filling in answers as you discover them.

Review your answers during the rehearsal period to see if you need to make any adjustments or to refresh your initial view of your character.

Pre-Story Notes

Assess your character at the beginning of the story in their normal world.

What are your character's pronouns?

What is your character's main motivation? If your character could have one thing at the start of the action, what would it be? What makes your character happiest?

Use all the space you need.

How does your character feel about or react to the setting (time and place) where the action takes place? What is your character's relationship to the setting? If it's unfamiliar, does it remind your character of another place and time? If the setting changes during the course of the story, how does your character react to each different setting? Which setting is most comfortable or least comfortable for your character?

Why is today different from every other day for your character? What's at stake today that wasn't at stake yesterday?
Use all the space you need.
Character Notes
Make note of some of the specifics of your character. The more specific your notes, the better they will serve you.
How is your character different from you physically? Older or younger? More or less physically adept? How comfortable with their body is your character?
Use all the space you need.
What is your character's relationship to other characters? Give details that go beyond parent, friend, sibling, cousin, total stranger. Does your character like or love any other characters? Does your character interact well with others?
Use all the space you need.
Does your character grow or develop? How? How does your character show that?
Use all the space you need.
Does your character have a sense of humor? If so, do other people get their sense of humor? When do we see that sense of humor?
Use all the space you need.
Does your character have a secret? If so, what is it? (This could be something your character never reveals. If so, you should keep it a secret, too.)
Use all the space you need.
Are there any observations you've made about your character not detailed above?

Scene-Specific Notes
Use this section for each scene where your character appears.
What was your character doing before coming into this space at this moment? What is your character feeling when coming into this space at this moment? Is that feeling displayed openly or is it suppressed in some way? Your character's feelings can be mixed: anxious but upbeat, angry but loving, defeated but still the slightest bit hopeful.
Use all the space you need.
Why did your character come into this space at this moment? Does your character get what they came for?
Use all the space you need.
What did your character discover while in this space, from any others in this moment with them, or about themself?
Use all the space you need.
Did your character score any wins by the end of the scene? Any losses? List them both.
Use all the space you need.
Are there actions you want to make note of not covered by the questions above?

Self-Study Work

Use all the space you need.

Use this section for each scene where your character appears.

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Use all the space you need.

Was there anything about the setting that confused you, that was something you never knew before, that made you uncomfortable? Do some research to learn more about the setting, if the setting is not entirely fictional.

Use all the space you need.

Were there any parts of the story you didn't understand? Read them again. Read them aloud to yourself. If you still have questions, ask your director for clarification.

Use all the space you need.

What other questions do you have about your character, other characters that your character interacts with, or the story in general? Again, talk to your director to gain clarification. It's never wrong to ask questions.

Use all the space you need.