

D&D CHARACTER BACKSTORY

In order to bring a sense of purpose and fun your adventure, it is vital that you have a clear and deep understanding of your character's backstory—what was their life like before they became an adventurer? Why did they choose a life of adventure? What are they hoping to accomplish? Having depth and specificity in your approach here will allow you to make good in-character decisions in the game, which will make it a rich experience for you and for your group.

Developing specific character backstories is something that all (good) writers and actors do.

How you communicate this is up to you: you could write a short story or a selection of important journal entries or a series of labelled drawings or a free verse poem—or... other! Whatever form you choose, it will need to be detailed, specific, and thorough. This can be done in your comp book, loose-leaf paper, or an electronic document.

You will not be assessed on your use of conventions, but instead on the following criteria:

Specificity and Detail in these Required Aspects

- Family background – socio-economic class (upper-class/noble, working class, etc.), what parents (if known) did for a living, siblings, where you grew up, education (if any), etc.
- Physical characteristics – height, weight, eye and hair color, body type, scars or other markings (if any), way of holding your body, way of speaking, etc.
- Background – how did you attain this background? What is the story?
- Personality – how did you develop your personality traits, bond, ideal, and flaw(s)? What are the stories there?
- Class – how did you choose your class? Were you mentored? Did you go to an official training academy? Were you self-taught? (Each “Class” section of the PH gives you ideas of what to think/write about here)
- Skills and Features: with the skills you are particularly good at, and the features you have gained as a result of your background, class, and race, how did you learn them? How did you develop your particular talent in these areas?
- Languages – how did you learn the languages that you are fluent in?
- Adventuring – how and why did you choose the life of an adventurer? What is your motivation?
- What is your most prized possession? Why is it so dear to you? What is the story behind other important items that you carry?
- Relationships – do you have any existing relationships that affect how you think or behave? These might be parents, siblings, friends, loved ones/spouses, mentors, or pets.

Marking Sheet

Detailed and Specific	Thorough	Clarity of Communication