

Prompts

1. Explore the emotional journey you undergo when you develop a character or story.

Written by Lisa Essler

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A character's journey begins with the writer and ends with an audience. So, what happens in between?

Well, that's the interesting part. A character doesn't just appear fully formed with annoying habits and interesting quirks to jump into a plot. No, the character grows in the writer's mind from their imagination, knowledge and experience. Then, the writer refines the character by asking questions about them and imagining how they would react in each situation. The background and beliefs of the character come into play in this.

The character grows, sometimes slowly and sometimes fast, in the neurons of the writer as they dump everything that comes into their mind onto paper. As the characters grow, I often experience intense emotions like joy, surprise, distress, pain, fear, disgust, and contempt.

These emotions and many others are shown in scenes where my characters celebrate something, escape from their enemies with joy and the adrenalin of fear combined, where they are disgusted by the behaviour of another character and the contempt they have for the invaders in their land. Of course, there are many other examples of characters' emotions and attitudes.

I spend more time on the characters than on the plot because for me it's the characters that make the story.