

Character Development Matrix

Name:

Date:

Character's Name: _____

Physical Description

Type of Being: *human being, dog, etc.*

- Face and head:

- Body:

- Clothing and/or equipment:

- Other:

Attitudes and Attributes

Primary attitude(s) about life: *Examples: cheerful, thinks everything is a joke, serious, sad, friendly, etc.*

Greatest strength:

Things hated:

Things loved:

Things feared:

Biggest secret:

Greatest hope or dream for the future:

Greatest flaw, fault, or blind spot:

Actions and Behaviors

Describe the action this character would take in each of the following situations:

- An event most feared happens (or appears).

- The thing most loved is taken or destroyed by someone or something.

- His/her greatest strength is greatly increased.

Sample Character Matrix: Henderson Appleway

Name: Mindy Sampson

Date: April 30, 2008

Character's Name: Henderson Appleway

Physical Description

Type of Being: *human being, dog, etc.* Henderson Appleway is a human being.

- **Face and head:** Henderson has a slightly egg-shaped head with small ears that lay close to his skull. His hair is light brown and cut long, just brushing his collar. He has dark brown eyes that seem to sparkle with flecks of gold. His nose is strong and straight while his smile, when it does suddenly appear, is slightly crooked.
- **Body:** Henderson has the body like a pro linebacker. He is muscular with not a trace of fat. He looks like he could lift three cheerleaders at one time and still have the strength to easily run a 100 yard dash. He is a bit shorter than most other boys his age.
- **Clothing and/or equipment:** Henderson is always dressed like he just stepped out of the latest copy of the most popular teen magazine. Count on Henderson to wear awesome clothes.
- **Other:** Henderson is 15 years old. He doesn't sit on a chair, he oozes onto it. He's very bright but his grades are mostly Bs. Henderson likes to go to the mall and the movies with his friends, Tyrell, Tommy, CeeCee, and Britney.

Attitudes and Attributes

Primary attitude(s) about life: *Examples: cheerful, thinks everything is a joke, serious, sad, friendly, etc.*

Henderson is friendly to everyone and believes that all people should be given a fair chance.

Greatest strength: His greatest strength is his ability to see what really makes people act the way they do. He is able to read the real person beneath some of his classmate's strange choices of clothes and their actions.

Things hated: prejudiced people, unfair teachers, Cracker Jacks, anything with a paisley print, and station wagons.

Things loved: hanging out with his friends, his dad and sister, chemistry, and just about every sport

Things feared: the dentist, suicide bombers, losing his dad to the cancer that killed his grandfather

Biggest secret: Henderson can solve complex mathematics equations in his head and loves math.

Greatest hope or dream for the future: He wants to develop a formula for a cheap medicine that will cure the kind of cancer that killed his grandfather.

Greatest flaw, fault, or blind spot: Henderson thinks he can help everyone. He refuses to believe that there are people that no amount of understanding and friendliness will change.

Actions and Behaviors

Describe the action this character would take in each of the following situations:

- **An event most feared happens** (or appears). Henderson's yearly checkup at the dentist showed that he had 7 cavities. He had to make 3 more trips to the dentist to get all the teeth repaired. Henderson shivered every time he had to go in the dentist's door but he kept repeating to himself, "I will not give in to fear."
- **The thing most loved is taken or destroyed by someone or something.** Henderson's dad got the same type of cancer as his grandfather. He stopped hanging out with his friends as often so he could be with his father and help his sister. When his dad died, Henderson and his sister went to live with an aunt who lived close by. Henderson decided to change the way he looked at getting good grades and started working to earn a scholarship to a college so that he could join the scientists fighting against cancer.
- **His/her greatest strength is greatly increased.** Henderson learned how to make his friends and classmates see the people in their class who did not fit in as he saw them. He started inviting some of these kids to join his friends when they went to the mall. When he and his friends accepted these kids, others in Henderson's class also began to see that "different" doesn't mean "bad".