

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

DIRECTIONS: READ THE PLAY SEVERAL TIMES. Then, answer the following questions (in order) in the first person (using the word "I") as the CHARACTER would speak. Answer as you, the actor, only when specified. Number each answer accordingly. You may include the question. Include the title, playwright, and the character at the top of the page. For those questions that aren't specifically answered in the script, make up answers based on what you've learned about the character from reading the text. Most answers require complete sentences – some may be in paragraph form. Type your final draft. Staple the pages. THE ENTIRE SCRIPT OF THE PLAY MUST BE USED AND IN HAND.

1. How do you relate to the (a) plot, (b) the mood, (c) the theme of the play? Describe and explain The plot, mood, & theme of the play and then how you (as the character) relate to each.
2. What is your super-objective? This is a statement about what you want to DO in the play.
3. How do you (as the actor) relate to the theme? Can you relate to what the playwright is saying? Why?
4. What are your opposition forces? What's in the way of what you want to achieve? Who is against you?
5. Indicate all of your relationships. With whom are you most heavily involved? Why?
6. How are you physically and psychologically different from the other characters in the play?
7. When you enter, where have you been? When you exit, where are you going?
8. How do your changes affect the others in the play?
9. Find all of your lines and record those of importance here. These are ANY lines in the script, which reveal something about you: what you say about yourself, what you say about other characters, what others say about you, and what comments and descriptions the playwright offers. Write them down and INCLUDE THESE TRAITS IN YOUR CHARACTERIZATION PROCESS. THIS SHOULD BE A VERY LONG ANSWER.
10. Who likes or dislikes you? Who do you like or dislike?
11. Physical description (be as detailed as you can). Include: sex, age, height, weight, hair color, eye color, skin, posture, appearance, defects or unusual physical features.
12. Sociological profile: class, occupation, attitude, education, race, nationality, standing in the community or position in society, political affiliation, admirable qualities, intellect
13. Psychological profile: moral standards, sexual behavior, ambitions, personal habits, frustrations, temperament, life attitude, complexes, emotional disturbances, abnormal behaviors, abilities, talents, admirable qualities, intellect
14. Who are you? First, middle, and last name.
15. In what country, state, and city do you live?
16. Are you single, married, or divorced?
17. How do you dress, walk, and sit?
18. What are your characteristic voice tones?
19. Are you in good health?
20. What are your strengths? How are they affected in the play?
21. Do you use good English skills? Do you speak illiterately? Do you have a dialect? Why?
22. What kind of life have you had?

23. In what kind of home do you live?
24. What are your needs and wants?
25. Do you get what you want? Where? When? How? Why?
26. Who helps you? How?
27. What is your general response to people?
28. What do you do (actions in the play)? What prompts these actions?
29. What do you NOT do?
30. How do you want to appear in general?
31. How do you NOT want to appear?
32. How do you want to be perceived by yourself?
33. What appearances must you avoid at all costs?
34. What appearances must you avoid with each particular character?
35. Who is your god? This is NOT a religious question. Who or what are the guiding forces within your life?
36. Who is your private audience? If you knew someone was watching you, who would you be living and playing for?
37. Find the good in your bad character, or the bad in your good character. Describe.
38. What are the differences between you and the actor?
39. What are the similarities between you and the actor?
40. What is the dramatic purpose of your role as created by the playwright? Why are you in the play?
41. What qualities of the actor are needed? Physically, vocally, personality, and special skills?
42. Determine a psychological gesture and explain how/why you use it. (What do you DO that SHOWS how you FEEL?) USE THIS HAND GESTURE IN YOUR PERFORMANCE—WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR IT!
43. Do a character observation. Find a person on whom you would base parts of your characterization. Maybe it is several people. Observe them and incorporate the traits in your characterization. List these observations.
44. What animal best represents you? Why? List animal traits/behaviors you will use in your characterization. USE THESE TRAITS IN YOUR PERFORMANCE—WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR THEM!
45. What inanimate object best represents you and why?.
46. Fantasize about your IDEAL future. Where will you be in one year, five years, and ten years?
47. Make a list of as many adjectives that you can which describe you.
48. Are you in the foreground, middle ground, or background; explain.
49. Are you head, heart, gut, or groin centered; explain.
50. Create an imaginary background. Complete your history, giving special attention to the events in your life which were influential in the development of your character as you appear in the work.

SPECIAL NOTE: *There is NO point in doing this analysis if you don't USE it to create your character. This is not just busy-work. After a complete analysis, you should be able to SHOW the audience: WHO you are, WHERE you are, HOW you go about getting what you want, and WHY you do what you do to get want what you want. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO BEGIN WORK ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.*