



ELA Virtual Learning

Creative Writing

April 24, 2020



Creative Writing

Lesson: Fri., April 24

Objective/Learning Target: Students will explore an original character through a series of short exercises.



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Warm-up: [Watch this video](#) from Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket). Try the exercise he suggests:

Pick up any item in your home and interview it. Write down the interview as a question and answer session.



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Review: Yesterday (Thurs., April 23), we created a story [character sketches](#) for a main character/protagonist as well as a supporting character. The better we know our characters' background and motivation, the more convincingly we'll write them on the page.



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Lesson: Before rehearsals, the playwright Edward Albee would hold question and answer sessions *in character* with the director and cast. ([Watch this video](#) to hear him talk about creating characters.) They would ask him anything about his characters, and he would respond as the character would. That's how well he knew his characters. (He won three Pulitzer Prizes for his plays.)



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Practice: Today we're going to use one of those characters you created to craft a question and answer session in order to get to know them better and understand how they would react in a given situation.

In your journal, record the answers to these questions *in the voice of your character*.



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Model: [Mr. Gall's Q & A with character](#)



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Additional Practice: ([from the article by Gabriela Pereira](#))

Choose a supporting character; follow her “off stage” and explore some aspect of this character’s life that would not appear in your actual story. Craft a full-length scene where you show the supporting character’s experience from his or her perspective.



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Additional Resources/Practice:

[Top Tips on Creating Setting](#) by Jess Butterworth

[Review of Daisy Johnson's *Fen*](#) from the Kenyon Review

[5 Essential Linked Story Collections](#) from Literary Hub

[Overdrive](#) via Mid-Continent Public Library