

Autism Empowerment: Neurodivergent Creators Collective



Welcome! We will be starting shortly!
Please feel free to introduce yourself in chat.

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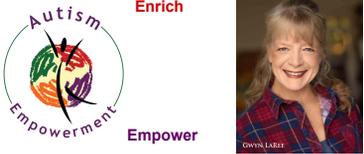


Creating Characters

Autism Empowerment: Neurodivergent Creators Collective

Welcome!!

Accept Enrich
Inspire Empower



Gwyn Large



What is a “Character”?

- “A person, animal or other being represented in a story, play, movie or other work of art.” Google AI
- “They embody the actions, dialogue and motivations that drive the plot.” Judith Weston



The 2 Main Secrets?

- 1) “Think about your life, your experiences, all of that “stuff” that makes you who you are today”
Judith Weston
You are a Character!!
- 2) “Our life evokes our character” Joseph Campbell

Every single person is the “Hero” of their own story.



Anatomy of a Character

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| • Actions | • Vulnerabilities |
| • Dialogue | • Fears |
| • Motivations | • Desires |
| • Traits | • Inner Conflicts |
| • Behaviors | • Personality |
| • Relationships | • Needs |
| • History | • Connections |
| • Dreams | • Goals |



What you really need:



- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why
- HOW



“Every human or creature is a “character” filled with conflicting hopes, fears, dreams and desires. Every “character” must have that same depth and turmoil if you wish your audience to believe the character could be sitting beside them.” Gwyn LaRee

But how do I apply that to my Characters?



Know Your Characters

“People in real life aren't good or bad, it's more complicated than that.” Alexander Skarsgard

Answer the six questions for every character in your story.

(Who, What, When, Where, Why and How)

Find the story arc based on those relationships.

“Myths are clues to the spiritual potentialities of the human life.” Joseph Campbell



SHOW don't Tell

Let your dialogue, actions and reactions reveal your character's inner thoughts and motivations instead of long speeches.

- Your audience wants to Understand the characters you present.
- Well defined characters (motives, history & feelings) are never "passive".
- Audiences empathize with characters when they know Why they are making the choices they do.
- Desires, fears, goals and struggles propel the story forward - creating the conflict and actions that keeps viewers engaged.



Writers

The beginning of Every story.
Gives every other entertainment media the foundation of the story to share.

Animators & Artists

Visualizes everything the writer has given, PLUS.
Physicality, appearance & movement bring the character to life.

Producers

Find the stories that speak the most clearly to current life.
Help polish and promote those works so they can be shared.



Voice Over Artists

Bring their own experience to both the vision and the story facts.
Develop the voice that gives the character greater depth and empathy.

Filmmakers & Directors

Will map out each characters story arc into movements and visuals.
The main collaborative force to bring the story to life.

Actors

Convert the facts and action of the story into a full person/creature.
Are often the greatest source of hidden meanings and intentions in a character.



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By mastering the art of creating compelling characters creators can craft stories that resonate deeply with audiences, leaving a lasting impression and making those stories truly unforgettable.





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What do YOU think?



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Upcoming Workshops:

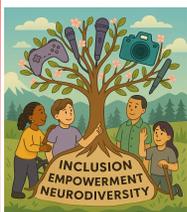
Chill & Chat

Saturday, September 6, 2025 @ 3:00 pm
Join fellow members to visit, share & collaborate!

Learning Writing and Storytelling From Video Games

Saturday, September 13, 2025 @ 3:00pm
Special guest **Meg Eden** (via Zoom) will discuss examples of games that tell stories through objects and guide you in special writing exercises.

Take our interest survey to let us know what you are most interested in!





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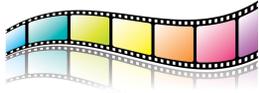
How to Connect with Us!



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www.facebook.com/groups/aencc



JOIN AE'S
**NEURODIVERGENT
CREATORS COLLECTIVE**



A space for autistic and neurodivergent
creatives to connect, collaborate, and
grow in media and storytelling.

Learn more at
AUTISMEMPOWERMENT.ORG/AENCC
