Jean Kwok’s Character Sketch Template

Name of Character

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Role in story |  |
| Physical description   * age, height, weight, hair, skin, physique * facial features * clothing * grooming * distinguishing features or habits, mannerisms * upon close inspection * voice * fragrance |  |
| What other people notice about her/him   * first * second |  |
| Background   * Ethnicity * Education * Religion * Personal experience * Occupation, work experience * Sexuality * Residence |  |
| Character traits   * Strongest (or dominant) trait * Weakest (or latent) trait * Philosophy * Politics * Interests * Vital secret |  |
| Significant event that molded the character’s personality |  |
| Is the reader likely to have stereotypical expectations about this character?   * How does the character defy the stereotype? * How does she conform to the stereotype? |  |
| Relationships   * Best friend * Other friends * Family * Enemies |  |
| Essence of the character   * Core need(s) * Ambition in life * What character does alone * Will reader like or dislike the character and why. |  |
| Character arc   * Does the character change in the story?  How? * Epiphany   + How does the character grow?   + What does the character learn? |  |
| Motivations/Ambitions   * What does the character want?   + abstract   + concrete   + Does character have intermediate goals? |  |
| Conflicts   * What could prevent the character from achieving her objectives?   + Internal conflicts   + External conflicts |  |
| Summary   * *If* the story were principally about this character what would that story line be? * Describe the *character’s*story in three acts:   + beginning   + middle   + end |  |
| Freestyle description of the character. |  |
| In the character’s own words: something the character says which is illustrative of her/his self-perception. |  |