QUEER CHARACTER FACTORY

Before you is a worksheet presenting three methods of character creation, tailored specifically to queer characters! You can start with any combination of these starting points, or just use the tips provided with your own methods. Just like with queerness, there are no rules. Have fun with it!

STARTING POINT 1: ANTAGONIST OR PROTAGONIST?

My #1 advice for deciding if a character is a protagonist or antagonist is to consider the story as a whole. After all, the "protagonists" and "antagonists" of a story change depending on who is telling it. Explain what your character is (or isn't) here!

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TIPS:
- A person tends to be the protagonist of their own story. That doesn't mean they're a good person.
- Antagonists don't have to be people. Bigotry and inequality make great sources of conflict!

STARTING POINT 2: "THE VIBES"

Most of my main characters are formed based on how they "feel." Their vibes, if you will. If you have any general feelings on how your character "just is", write them here!

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TIPS:
- These notes can totally involve queer identities (especially smaller ones!)
- check the tip on using and breaking stereotypes below!

STARTING POINT 3: THE MOTIVATION!

Figuring out what motivates your character will help you write a compelling narrative around them. What do they want? What do they want to avoid? What are their goals, big or small?

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TIPS:
- Get creative! Many stories about queer people have goals like "coming out" or "feeling accepted", but our lives can be way more complex than that!
- What force(s) could change their motivations/goals?

TIPS TO BUILD YOUR STORY:
- **Challenge your assumptions.** If you've created a character that you think isn't influenced by their identities, consider what it would be like if they were.
- **Flip the script.** who sees your protagonist as an antagonist?

ON STEREOTYPES:
- Know what stereotypes exist in literature so you can avoid them or subvert them. (sensitivity readers help!)
- If using stereotypes in your work, I recommend that you discuss stereotypes that personally affect you.