

Experiencing Stanislavsky Today – Website Worksheet #4

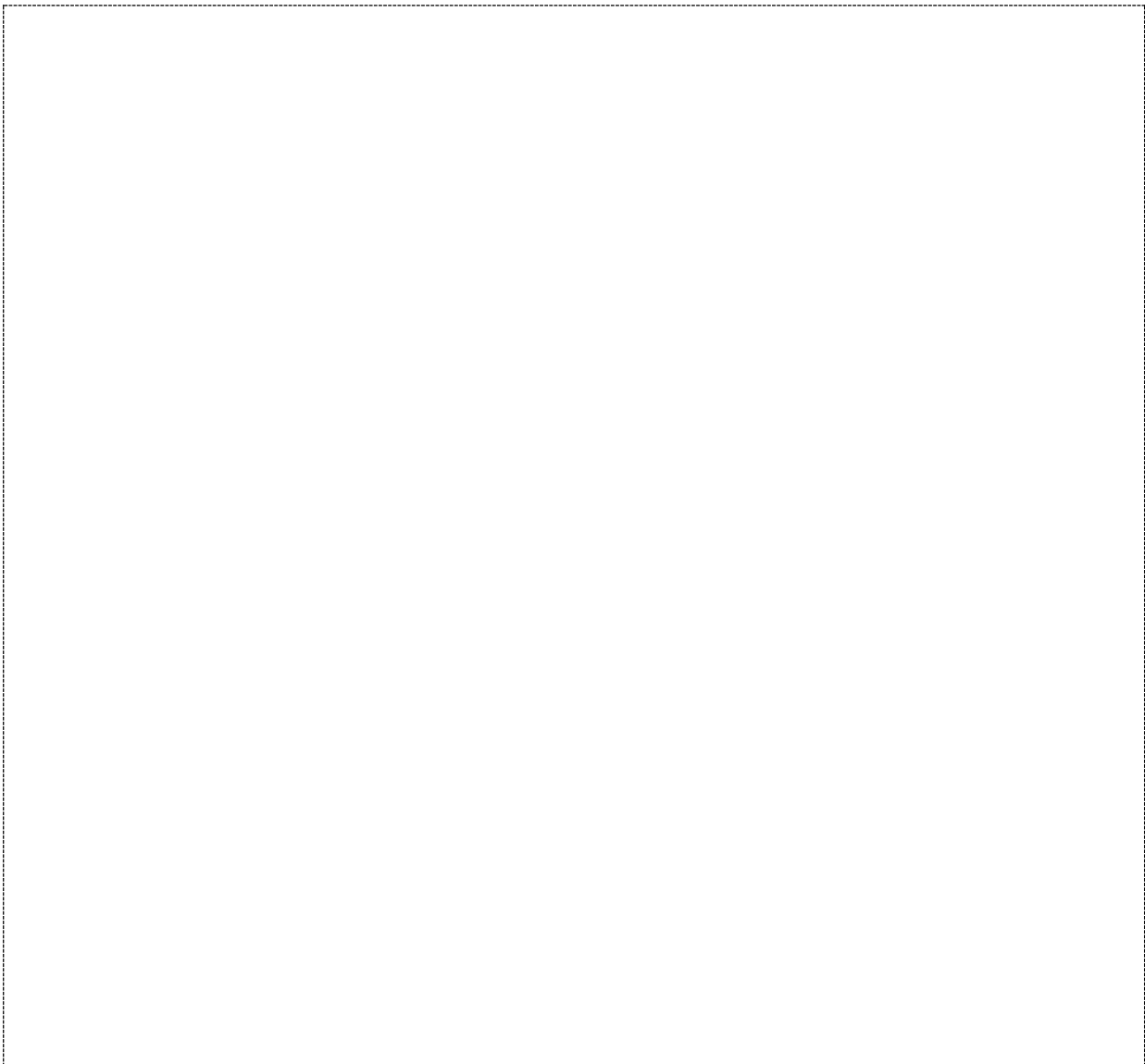
Worksheet 14.2 – Objective Character Analysis

<p>Gather biographical circumstances given by the playwright. This step takes time but do not skip or skim.</p>
<p>a. Did they grow up in the country, suburbs or city? Where do they live now?</p>
<p>b. Was their early environment supportive, challenging? Describe the home and the neighborhood.</p>
<p>c. How many siblings do they have? Where are they in the family order? Are their parents married, divorced or never married?</p>
<p>d. How was the family supported economically? How do they support themselves now? What economic class are they in? Has that changed?</p>
<p>e. Does the author let you know of any important formative events in early years?</p>
<p>f. Note any other biographical information given.</p>
<p>g. What quotes by the playwright are most revealing of your character?</p>

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Relationships: Draw a relationship map showing which characters are closest to you.

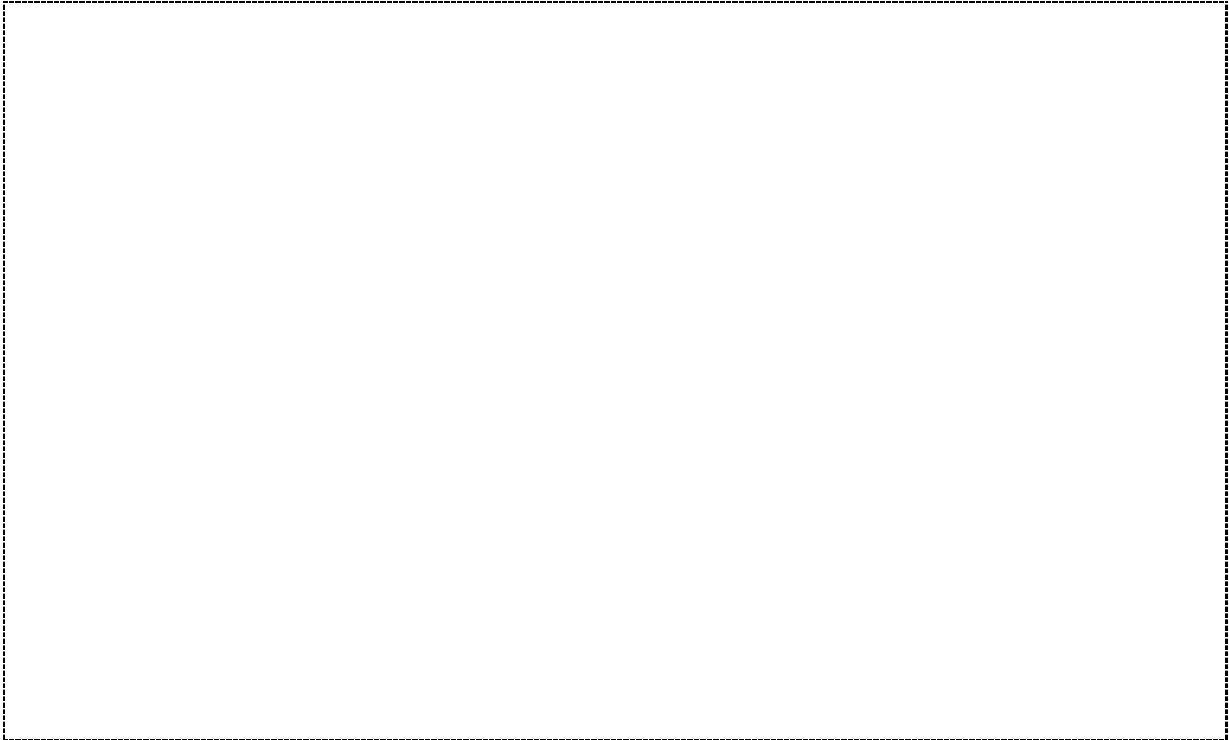
- a. Put your character's name in the circle in the middle of a piece of paper with the other characters in circles around it.
- b. Draw a line between your character's circle and the other characters.
- c. On top put your character's role relationship to each? (such as father, ex-wife, or boss)
- d. Below the line write what the relationship is like (We are close. We hate each other. There is a history of betrayal, or a dangerous secret between us.)
- e. How do others see your character? Jot down things that other characters say about you. Make sure to note who said it, as that person's view may be colored by his relationship with you.



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Character Dichotomy Figure (SF)- Perception and Projection of Character

Draw the outline of a person. Only the outline is necessary for this exercise, no features. On the inside of the shape write how your character feels about himself. On the outside, how do they try to present themselves to the world? (This might be an interesting one to do for yourself too.)



Like You/Unlike You (SF)- Adjectives Chart:

Make a list with three columns. In one, a list of adjectives to describe your character, then two more columns - one for like you and one for unlike you. Place a checkmark or X to select the most relevant.

Adjectives	Like Me	Unlike Me

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Character and Events and Character Arc

a. Which events of the play's first or second plan impact your character most, why and how?

b. Which events cause your character to evolve during the play? If so, in what way? Is this change gradual or sudden?

c. In a few words is the journey of your character from beginning to end of the play?

Imagining your Character – Filling in the Gaps

Now, based on the facts offered by the playwright and the facts of the time period and location in which the play is set that you already researched as part of Chapter 12, fill out additional character information with your imagination.

a. What is important to your character's generation?

b. What would they put on a social media profile?

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c. Is there a secret they hold that might shape their character?

d. Does the character have a psychological burden, something that weighs on their mind and influences their behavior?

e. What drives your character (seed)? Examples: (love, lust, greed, power, revenge)

f. If your character was an animal what would it be?

Supertask. What is your first impression of your character's supertask? What is the impression the playwright wants the audience to have about this character?

Problem. What is my character's problem in this situation, or with this person in this scene?

Task/Objective. What do I want to change about this situation or person?

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Typical action-steps. What I do to try to change it? This may be through verbal or physical efforts or both. Try to list these in active, infinitive verb form – to accuse, to deny, to threaten. If you write ‘to be happy’ that is passive, while ‘to convince him I am happy’ would be active.

Biggest Fear. What is something your character is most afraid of doing or showing or encountering? Plays often push characters to this brink.

Character Research (In Chapter 12 you conducted research relevant to the play. Now do research specific to your character.)

Time Period: Note the time period your character grew up in and lives in now. What events of that period that might feed into his outlook? Print out articles, highlight them with notes and put a summary of key findings relevant to the character and the play.

Location: Image research on the all the locations of the play and of your character history. Make a collage (or draw if you are so inclined).

Research People: Find a collage of images of how you think you look and of how the people important to you might look. Look for people in the world around you who are more like your character than you.

Research Circumstances and Events your character experiences in the play that are not familiar to you.

Find Evocative Images and Objects: They may be of people or of other things but they remind you of some aspect of your character. Create a scrapbook or collage of these images.