Character Archetypes

**Analyst:** Can explain anything rationally. Ex: Mr. Spock

**Anti-hero:** The hero who didn’t ask to get involved but does. Ex: Sarah Connor, Wolverine

**Benefactor:** Has a whole lot of something he wants to share. Ex: Miss Havisham

**Bully:** Has no tolerance for weakness, especially in himself. Ex: Scut Farkus (*Christmas Story*)

**Bureaucrat:** Follows the rules no matter what. Ex: Hermione Granger

**Caretaker:** Cares for others. Ex: Digory Kirke

**Catalyst:** Makes things happen.

**Child:** Could be a literal child or just living like one. Ex: Wally McDoogle, Peter Pan

**Coward:** Afraid of everything, controlled by fear. Ex: Adrian Monk, Cowardly Lion, Alexandra Rover

**Curmudgeon:** Irritable and cynical and proud of it. Ex: Ebenezer Scrooge

**Dreamer:** Longs to be something else. Ex: Annie, William Thatcher (*A Knight’s Tale*)

**Elder/mentor/teacher/parent:** Been around long enough to know some vital information. Ex: Ben Kenobi, Mufassa

**Explorer/wanderer:** Wants to see the world—could be running from something.

**Extraordinary man:** The guy who can do anything. Ex: Indiana Jones, James Bond

**Gossip:** Must be the first to know everything and the one to pass it on. Ex: Rachel Lynde

**Guardian:** Protects the weak.

**Hedonist/thrill-seeker:** Lives for today in case tomorrow never comes.

**Herald/messenger:** The bringer of news, good, bad, or necessary.

**Hermit/loner:** Just wants to be left alone. Ex: Phil Hercules, Martin Riggs (*Lethal Weapon*)

**Hunter/predator:** Can catch or kill anything. Ex: Terminator

**Innocent:** An inexperienced individual exposed to the evils in the world. Ex: Dorothy Gale

**Introvert:** Lives inside his shell to prevent anyone from seeing the real him. Ex: Gabriella Montez

**Investigator:** Thrives on puzzles and riddles. Ex: Nancy Drew, Sherlock Holmes

**Judge/mediator:** The arbitrator or peacemaker in a conflict.

**Leader:** Always knows the best thing to do—and the people follow him. Ex: William Wallace

**Magician/wizard/superhero:** Has special powers or abilities. Ex: Superman, Harry Potter

**Manipulator:** Plays with people and situations to get what he wants. Ex: Scarlett O’Hara

**Martyr:** Willing to suffer or die for others or a cause.

**Masochist:** Finds pleasure in torturing himself, denying himself—may take on too much.

**Masquerader:** Pretends to be something he’s not.

**Monster:** A depraved beast. Ex: Gollum, Grendel (*Beowulf*)

**Ordinary man:** Average Joe like you or me or your neighbor. Ex: Dr. Richard Kimball, Frodo Baggins

**Penitent:** Lives to atone for his sin.

**Perfectionist:** Every action and word must be flawless.

**Pleaser/show-off:** Craves approval from anyone and may do anything to get it.

**Poet:** Life is art, be that through story, song, painting, or sculpture.

**Rebel/revolutionary:** Stands opposed to the status quo and fights for his cause.

**Rogue:** Looks out for himself and no one else. Ex: Han Solo

**Saboteur/betrayer:** For whatever reason, he will make sure something fails. Ex: Edmund Pevensie

**Samaritan:** Does good deeds wherever he goes.

**Scholar:** Wants to learn.

**Sensualist:** Addicted to feeling good about himself.

**Slave:** Does not belong to himself. Ex: Dobby the house elf

**Survivor:** Pulls through no matter what happens, doesn’t give up.

**Sycophant:** Self-seeking, flatterer, who works to please those in power. Ex: Smee (*Peter Pan*)

**Temptress:** Uses power (intellect, magic, beauty) to make others weak. Ex: Megara (*Hercules*)

**Thief:** Takes what he wants or needs. Ex: Philippe Gaston (*LadyHawke*), Jean Valjean

**Trickster/jester:** Always looking for the humor in a situation. Ex: Fred and George Weasley

**Tyrant:** Must be in control at all times. Ex: Captain Hook

**Victim:** Was hurt by someone or lives in fear that someone will hurt him. Ex: Claireece “Precious” Jones

**Villain:** Seeks to destroy/trap the hero. Ex: Evil Queen in *Snow White*, Lex Luthor

**Waif:** Appears innocent and weak and often relies on the pity of others. Ex: The Kid (*Dick Tracy*)

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