



Instructions Full

Build Your Character Sheet

By Kathleen Mercury, Guardian Adventures

The Build Your Character program is a Character Sheet supplement to any reading log where you will use quotes from your reading to build and develop an RPG-like character. The more you read, the more your character will develop, as **you can add one quote from a book to the Character Sheet for each specified reading goal** (book, minutes, pages as specified by your library).

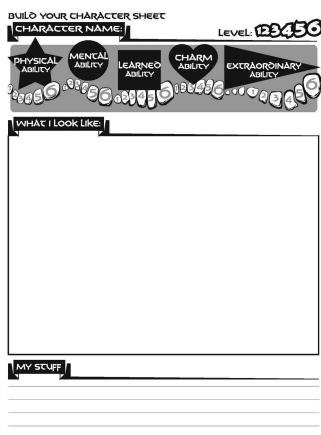
Before you get started, be sure to always use a pencil, not a pen, when writing on your Character Sheet. As characters and numbers change, it's the best way to make changes.

The Parts of the Character Sheet

Front side:

- Character Name
- Quotes (five different categories)
- Ability
- Ability Tracker
- Level (referred to as the "Overall Level")

Back side:



- Character name, Level, Ability Tracker (should match the front side, so update the back side numbers to match the front side)
- What I Look Like (drawing of your character)
- My Stuff

Character Name

At any time, you can name your Character for free. You can start, add to, and change the name of your Character at any time for free. Have fun incorporating ideas from your quotes to your Character's drawing as the Character develops!

Quotes

As you read, you will come across quotes that you can use to build and develop an RPG-like character.

You can start with a plan for a character (for example, you know you want to build a strong fighter or a crafty wizard) or let the character evolve from there. **No matter your approach, you will choose quotes from your reading to add to your Build Your Character Sheet.** The more you read, the more developed your character will become. This is how you will create a well-rounded character from what you've read!

Look for quotes for your Character that you can add to the following categories.

- **My Physical Description:** How do others see your character?
- **My Core Personality and Background:** What kind of person are you? How did you get that way?
- **Things I Can Always Do:** What are your real-life abilities?
- **What Makes Me Special:** What superpowers or unique abilities do you possess?
- **My Struggles and Weaknesses:** What are the challenges you have? How do they make your character interesting and well-rounded?
- **My Stuff:** What objects have you collected on your journey?

After choosing a quote for your Build Your Character Sheet, you will write the quote on your Build Your Character sheet. If the quote is particularly long, try to select the most relevant passage, or write really small so it fits on one line. Sometimes a quote can easily fit into one category, but sometimes you will be creative in deciding where a quote fits best.

Consider the following examples. They would all be interesting for a character, and depending on how you want your character to develop, they could fit in different places. The most important thing to remember is that YOU decide where a quote fits to develop your character.

1. *"I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship."* Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
 - This could be Core Personality and Background if you want to show your character's strength or Things I Can Always Do if your character is a sailor.
2. *"A beard is a gnarly place for a pastry to reside."* A Snicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd.
 - This may fit My Physical Description, but maybe if the character's beard is a magical hiding place, this might be What Makes Me Special.
3. *"They were good and kind however, and oftentimes goodness and kindness cast a glow over people that passes very well for beauty."* Nancy and Plum by Betty McDonald.
 - This could be Core Personality and Background, but it could maybe be What Makes Me Special, or even What I Look Like, depending on the interpretation.
4. *"What I did next was so impulsive and dangerous I should've been named ADHD poster child of the year."* The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
 - Struggles and Weaknesses, but also maybe Core Personality and Background, or What Makes Me Special, or even What I Can Always Do?
5. *"Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it."* Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, J. K. Rowling.
 - This might fit all categories depending on how you see your character!

Abilities

As you add quotes for the different categories, you'll Level Up your Character by increasing their Ability scores for the five different Abilities. The Abilities don't match the categories and that's on purpose, because you get to decide how your character's quotes shape your character's ability to face challenges.

- **Physical:** How your character physically moves.
- **Mental:** Your character's intelligence and ways of responding to problems.
- **Learned:** Your character's new skills and knowledge they have learned.
- **Charm:** Your character's personality and how they navigate and negotiate their way in the world.
- **Extraordinary:** The exceptional or super abilities and powers your character acquires.

After adding the new quote for your character, decide which Ability (Physical Ability, Mental Ability, Learned Ability, Charm Ability, Extraordinary Ability) fits **best and draw the matching shape in the box next to the quote** (★ for physical, ● for Mental, ■ for Learned, ♥ for Charm and ▲ for Extraordinary).

My Stuff: Add quotes about different items that you pick up for your character as you read. Add the Ability symbol next to the description. You can also draw the object with your character on the What I Look Like section. Be sure to draw the Ability shape next to the description of the object, and update your Ability Tracker for that Ability.

Ability Tracker

Each time that you add to an Ability, add +1 to that Ability on the Ability Tracker. For example, if you had added the above Little Women quote, you could choose to add +1 to your Learned Ability to show that your character has learned to sail, or +1 to Charm to develop your character's personality. Remember, you decide! Fill in the next number on the Ability to show that you have leveled up!

Level

All Characters' overall Level starts at Level One (top right corner of the front page), so shade in the 1 for your Overall Level. Your Overall Level is equal to your lowest individual Character Ability (all individual Abilities start at one). Your Overall level will increase as you level up your Character, but only when all *individual* Abilities have increased to 2, then 3, and so on.

Be sure to update the Ability tracker and Overall Level on the back side of your Build Your Character Sheet when you update the front!

What I Look Like

At any time, you draw your Character for free. You can also add to and change your drawing of your Character at any time for free. Have fun incorporating ideas from your quotes, including My Stuff, to your Character's drawing as the Character develops!

Continue to add to your Build Your Character Sheet as you read, and check with your Library for any special events where you will be able to use your Character's Abilities in real-life challenges.



BUILD YOUR CHARACTER SHEET

CHARACTER NAME: _____ LEVEL: **123456**

PHYSICAL ABILITY MENTAL ABILITY LEARNED ABILITY CHARM ABILITY EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY

MY PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: _____ ABILITY: _____

MY CORE PERSONALITY AND BACKGROUND: _____

THINGS I CAN ALWAYS DO: _____

WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL: _____

MY STRUGGLES AND WEAKNESSES: _____

BUILD YOUR CHARACTER SHEET

CHARACTER NAME: _____ LEVEL: **123456**

PHYSICAL ABILITY MENTAL ABILITY LEARNED ABILITY CHARM ABILITY EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY

WHAT I LOOK LIKE: _____

MY STUFF: _____

Quick Reference Guide for Adding to Your Build Up Your Character Sheet

1) Add A Quote to a Category.

- For each reading target (book, minutes, pages) that you complete, write a quote from your book on one line of one category of your choice on the Character sheet.

2. Increase an Ability number.

- After adding the new quote for your character, decide which Ability fits best and draw the matching shape in the box next to the quote (★ for physical, ● for Mental, ■ for Learned, ♥ for Charm and ▲ for Extraordinary).
- Then, shade in the next number for that Ability with a maximum of 6 per Ability.
- Have fun with how you interpret your quotes to develop your character's abilities!

3. Check Your Overall Level:

- Your Character's Overall Level is equal to their lowest individual Ability score, which means all Characters start at 1, and the maximum Overall Level is 6.
- For example: if you have Physical Ability at 2, Mental Ability at 3, Learned Ability at 4, Charm Ability at 5, and Extraordinary Ability at 2, your level is 2 because that is the level of your lowest Ability score(s).

4. Remember, your character's Name and What I Look Like are always free to add and change!

