



## Five Character Creation Tips Using the LINKED® System

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Memorable characters are the most important ingredient in fiction writing. How can an author create characters that stick in someone's mind? How can a book's character make the reader dive back into your book? Using the LINKED® Personality system, you'll create fascinating characters that draw the reader back into your book again and again. Check out the tips below.

**Tip 1. Believable.** Using the LINKED® personalities, you'll find four distinct personality types—the Mobilizer (loves control), the Socializer (loves fun), the Organizer (loves order), and the Stabilizer (loves quiet) are right on target for characters that ring true. Choose one or a mix of them to provide systematic character traits for a person

**Tip 2. Memorable.** Choose one characteristic, such as Socializer, and give the character extreme trait characteristics. A Socializer tends to speak a lot, so have them interrupt people, take over most of the conversations, and launch into stories every time they talk. Readers will never forget that character!

**Tip 3. Interview.** Define your character using the LINKED® personality system and create a mock interview. For example, if your protagonist is a Mobilizer, they like control. They want things done now and they want them done fast. Ask you protagonist why they are hurrying to get something done. What drives them? What or who causes them pain, anxiety, or anger?

**Tip 4. Emotions.** Emotions sell books. Go deep with your character using the LINKED® system. Perhaps that person is an Organizer who always wants things in order and who tends to hide issues deep inside. Expose them! Your character might stew internally because someone criticized their work, even though it's the best work ever. Would that drive them to do something negative to cause the other person pain? Or perhaps they withdraw into themselves and become morose or pensive, destroying a relationship.

**Tip 5. Backstory.** If your character is a Stabilizer who loves quiet and doing things the easy way, they might not show an overwhelming disposition in any one direction in the beginning of your fiction novel, but they might save the day when an emergency arises later in your story. Fill in the deeper backstory as you go along, showing how their character develops and grows according to their personality

**Aaron M. Zook, Jr.—an award-winning author and speaker—entertains with a purpose in his books and presentations. He's thrilled thousands of readers through his YA Christian mystery/adventure Thunder and Lightning series about two inquisitive brothers and their dogs who solve one crisis after another around the world. Aaron is a retired U.S. Army Colonel and lives with his wife, Joyce, in Holly Lake Ranch, TX.**

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