**Taylor Murch’s Character Profile Sheet**

You can dig deeper into any of these questions by asking the follow-up questions, “What does that say about them as a person?” and “Why are they like that?” Also, for each detail you come up with for your character, ask yourself, “How will the reader learn/know this?” / “How will this manifest in the story?”

What does this character value?

Where do they get their sense of self-worth?

What are they confident about in themselves? What are they insecure about?

What does this character believe in? Would they die for it?

What, if anything, would make them go against their beliefs, or change them altogether?

How empathetic is this character?

How good are they at acting on their intentions? Are they generally active or reactive?

What does this character want? What’s preventing them from getting what they want? And is what they want different from what they need?

What are their strengths and weaknesses? What is their fatal flaw?

What is this character’s greatest fear?

What is something this character *should* fear, but doesn’t?

Where does (or would) this character find happiness?

What is this character’s biggest secret? What lengths will they go to to protect it?

What is this character’s world view? Is it warped? Wrong? Is it realistic? Self-serving? How does it inform the way they interact with others?

How does this character treat people they like? People they love? (*Do* they even love people?)

How does this character treat people they don’t like? People they loathe? (*Do* they even loathe people?)

What criteria do they use to judge other people? Is it different from how they judge themselves?

How did they become who they are? (e.g., how did their childhood or past form them, what life experiences changed them, etc.)

What is this character’s purpose in the story? (in-universe *and* out-of-universe)

Pick an image (e.g., an animal, a feeling, an abstract like “wisdom”) that represents this character’s core trait or essence, and use it as a touchstone. Refer back to it whenever you need to (e.g., knowing what the character would do or say).

Create a thesis statement for this character—a truth that cuts to the bone. You can use a line(s) directly from your text, or you can write something new. Never forget it.