

# CHARACTER ORCHARD

GROW YOUR  
CHARACTERS FROM  
SEEDLINGS TO  
FORESTS

Created by Jenifer Ruth



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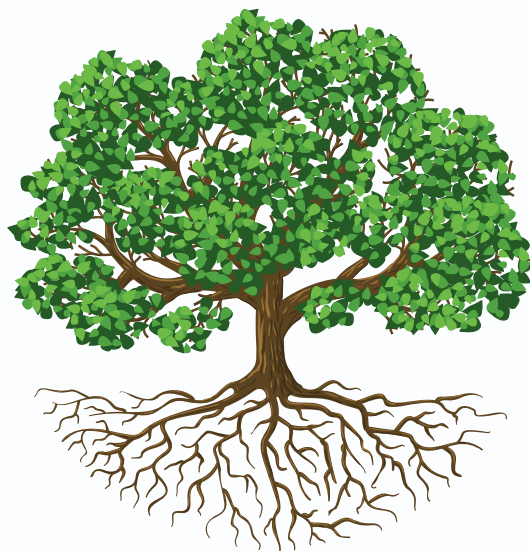
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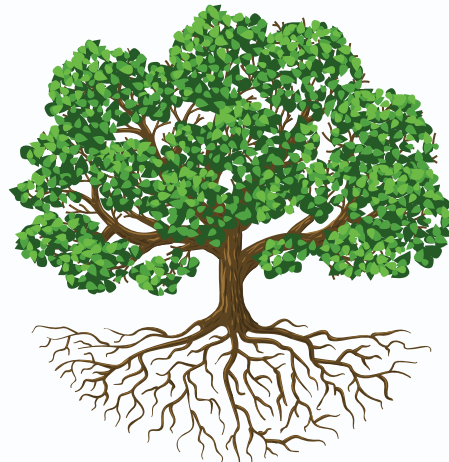


# HEY THERE STORYTELLER

Step into the shade of 'The Character Orchard,' your new favorite nook for growing those folks who've been tiptoeing through your imagination. Think of this journal as a kind of treehouse for your brainwaves, where every leaf tells a story, and every branch is a plot twist waiting to happen.

Ready to get cozy and creative? Awesome, because this is where your characters will go from being fleeting ideas to friends (or foes) with backstories as deep as their pockets. Jot down their fears, their secret handshakes, the way they laugh or why they can't stand broccoli. Here, you're the architect from the ground up—roots to tip-top leaves.

Crack open the first page and let's chat it out, one character at a time. No rush, no pressure. Just you, your pen, and a whole forest of personality waiting to grow. So, what's your character's story? I'm all ears (and pages!). Let's get this party started, shall we?



# The Roots - Character Basics

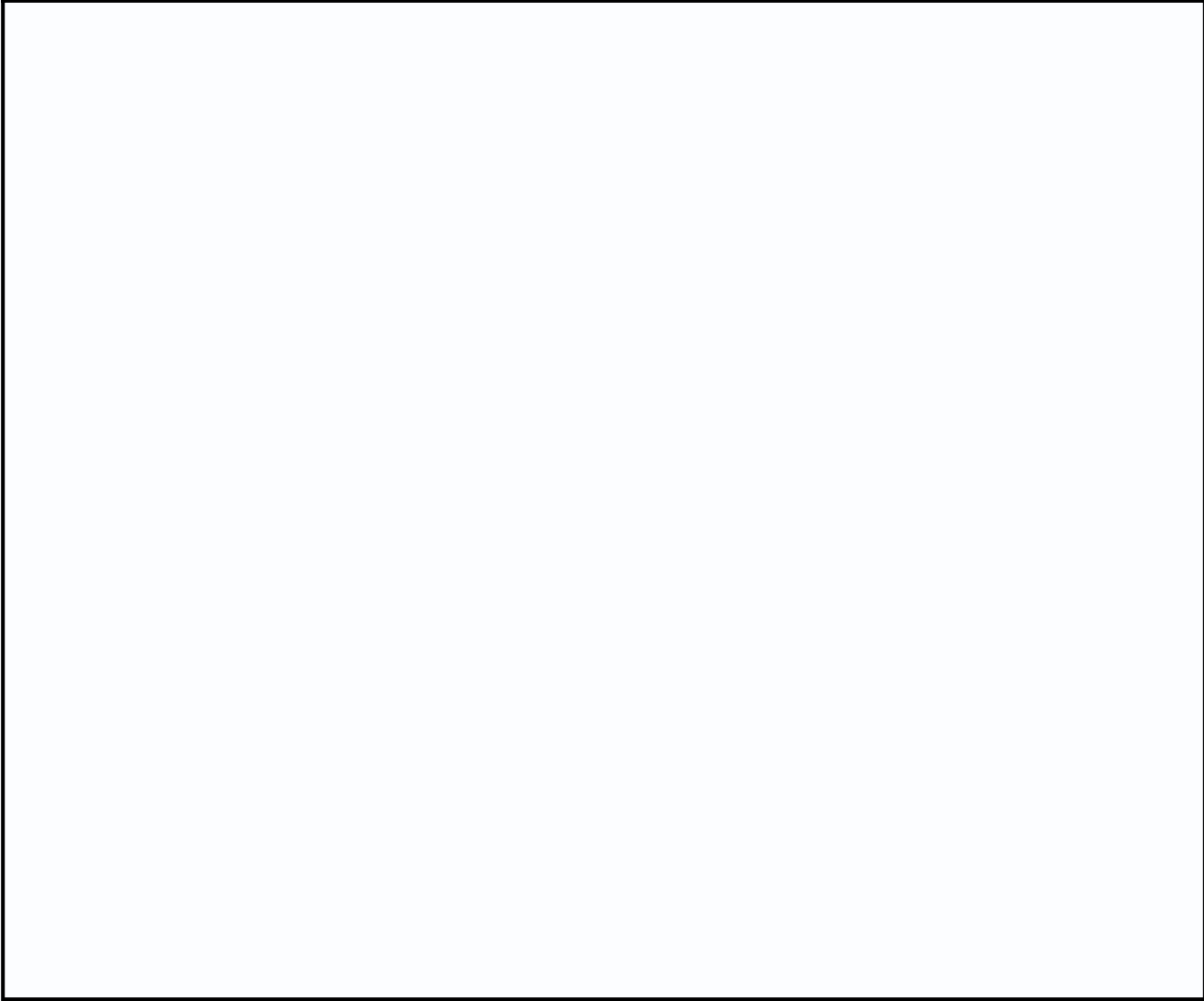
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Nickname</b>	
<b>Story Behind the Name</b>	
<b>Age and How it Influences Behavior</b>	

<b>BIRTHPLACE - DESCRIPTION OR SKETCH</b>
<b>How did this birthplace shape your character?</b>



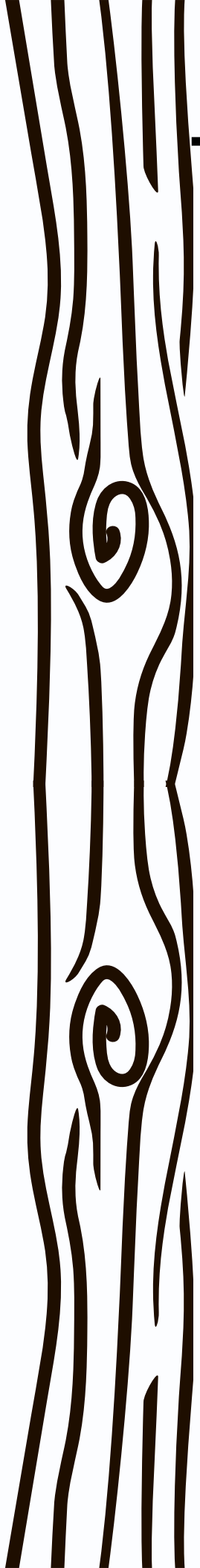
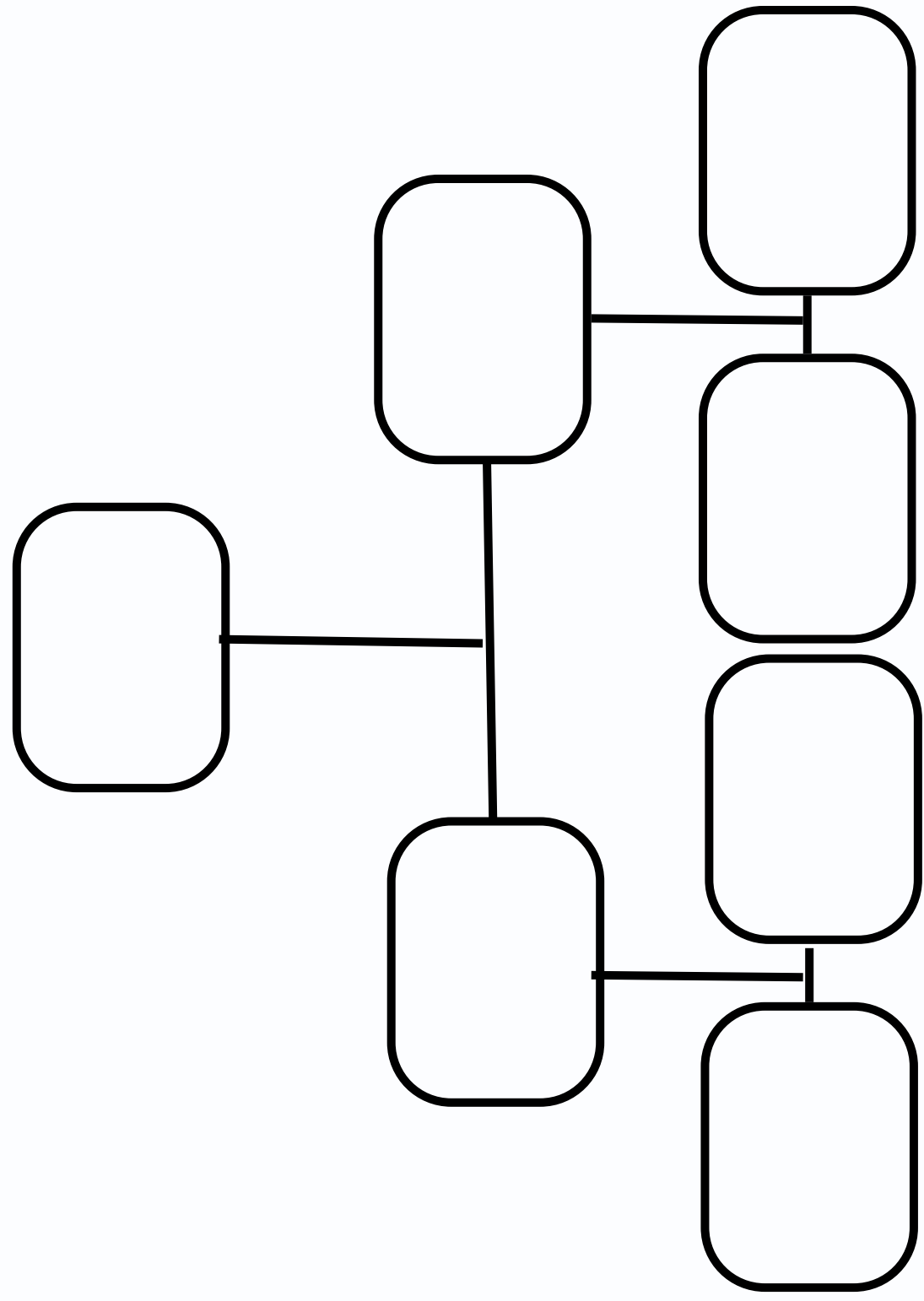
# The Roots - Character Basics

APPEARANCE - SKETCH, DESCRIBE, OR PASTE PICTURES THAT REMIND YOU OF YOUR CHARACTER'S APPEARANCE.



# The Trunk- Backstory and History

## Basic Family Tree







# The Trunk- Backstory and History



## Education and Training



Education Level and Schooling

Skills

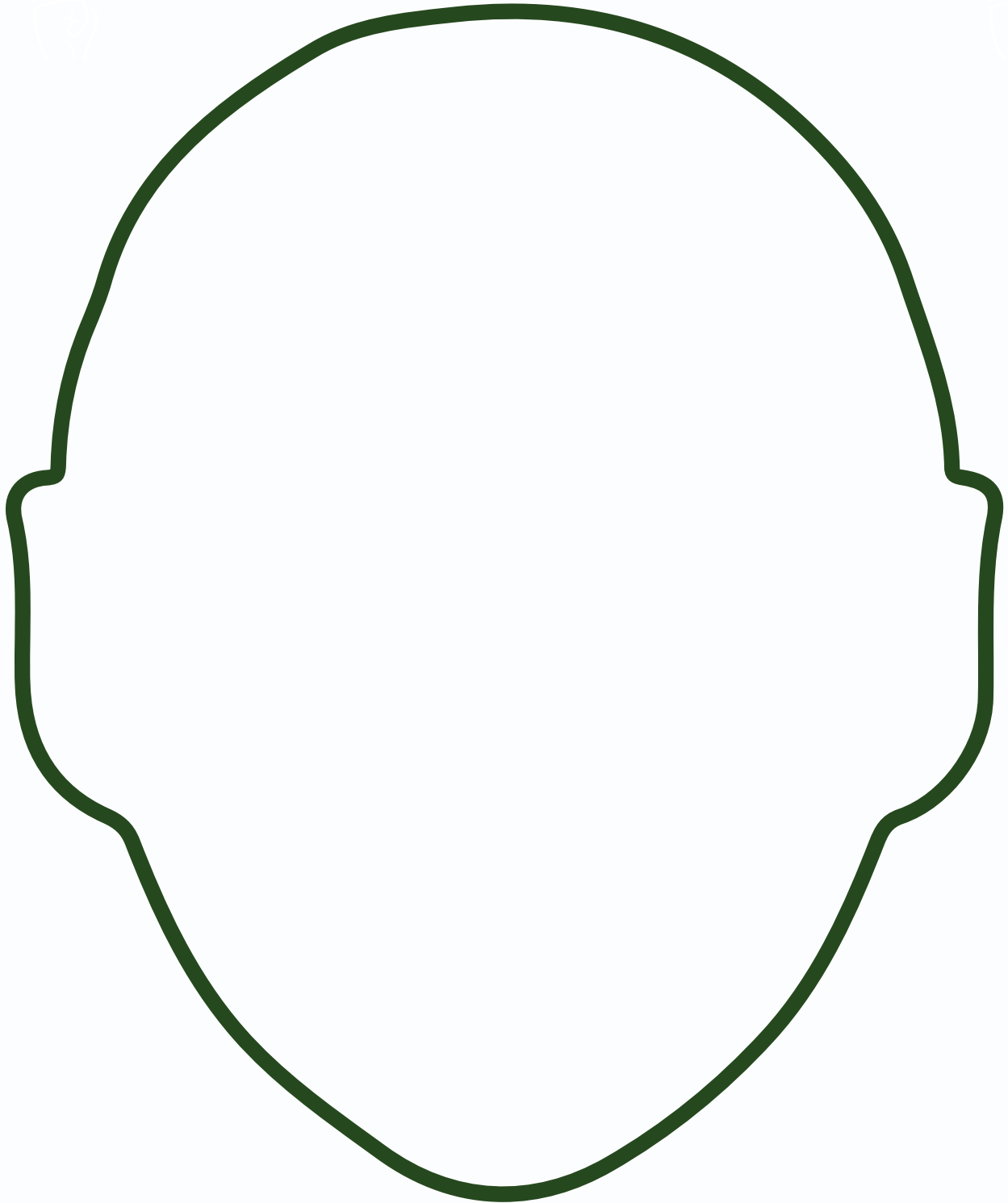
Mentors



# The Branches - Personality and Preferences



Add adjectives or phrases that describe the kind of person your character is. A list of possible character traits and adjective are on the next page.



# The Branches - Personality and Preferences



POSITIVE TRAITS		NEGATIVE TRAITS	
Empathetic	Wise	Impulsive	Callous
Resilient	Adaptable	Sarcastic	Greedy
Courageous	Thoughtful	Stubborn	Slothful
Optimistic	Graceful	Pessimistic	Petulant
Honest	Energetic	Secretive	Grudge-bearing
Generous	Sincere	Jealous	Impatient
Loyal	Artistic	Vain	Quarrelsome
Kind-hearted	Curious	Cynical	Sullen
Altruistic	Diligent	Arrogant	Deceitful
Perseverant	Imaginative	Moody	Fanatical
Amiable	Tolerant	Indecisive	Pompous
Inventive	Prudent	Nonchalant	Rash
Affectionate	Spontaneous	Manipulative	Disrespectful
Enthusiastic	Charming	Unreliable	Nihilistic
Respectful	Cheerful	Boastful	Paranoid
Dependable	Confident	Melodramatic	Obsessive
Humorous	Sympathetic	Dismissive	Tactless
Insightful	Industrious	Insecure	Overbearing
Passionate	Intuitive	Gullible	Cowardly
Patient	Vibrant	Hot-headed	Frivolous

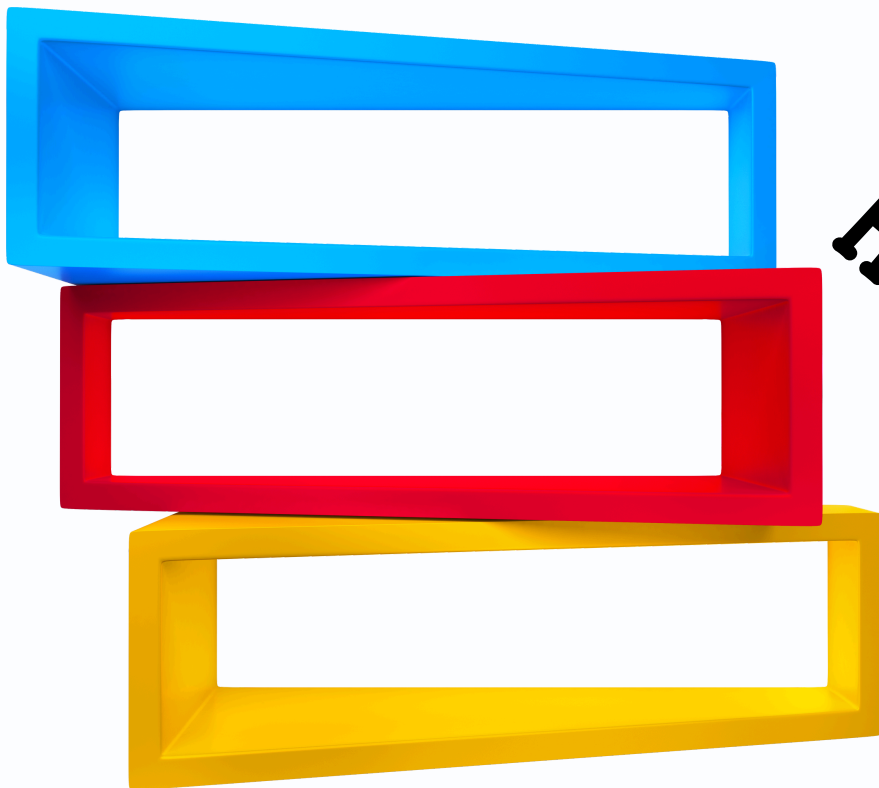
# The Branches - Personality and Preferences



LIKES	DISLIKES

# The Branches - Personality and Preferences

FEARS	DESIRES



Hobbies

# The Leaves - Day to Day

## Professional Life



●●● Job Description [x]

[Empty space for writing]

●●● Career Goals [x]

[Empty space for writing]

○○○ Work Environment [x]

[Empty space for writing]

[Empty space for writing]

# The Leaves - Day to Day

## Friendship



Social Status

3 Favorite Hangouts

1.

2.

3.

Friend

Friend

Friend

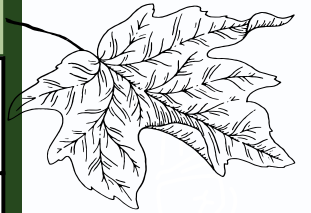
Friend



# The Leaves - Day to Day

## Average Daily Schedule

Schedule	
Time	Activity

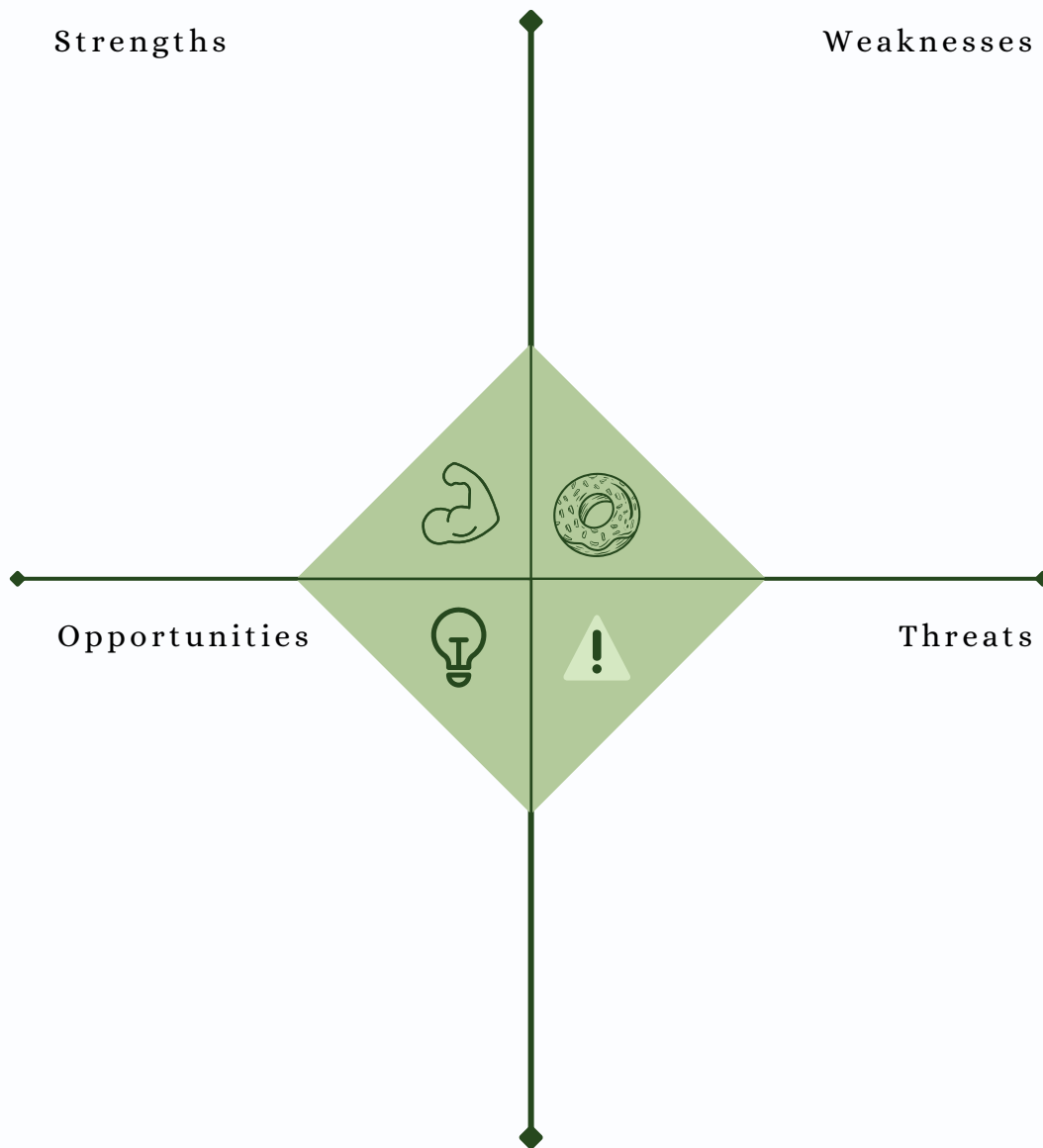


# The Blossoms - Growth and Change

## Challenges and Opportunities

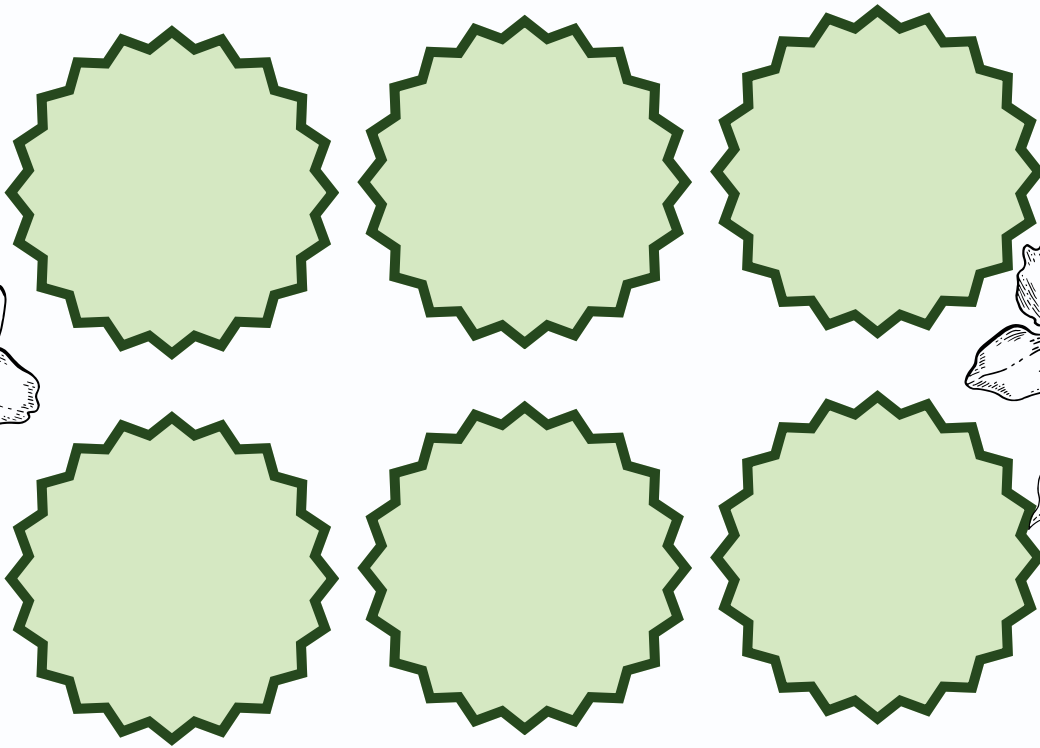
### SWOT Analysis

Complete this analysis to pinpoint your character's  
Challenges and plan for the major challenges.



# The Blossoms - Growth and Change

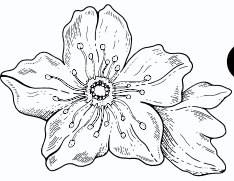
## Achievements and Accomplishments



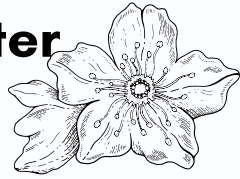
## Lessons Learned



# The Blossoms - Growth and Change



## Character Arc: The Evolution of Your Character



### Character Starting Point

Internal:

External:

### Change 1

Cause:

Internal Change:

External Change:

### Change 1

Cause:

Internal Change:

External Change:

### Change 1

Cause:

Internal Change:

External Change:

### Change 1

Cause:

Internal Change:

External Change:

### Change 1

Cause:

Internal Change:

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### Change 1

Cause:

Internal Change:

External Change:

### Change 1

Cause:

Internal Change:

External Change:

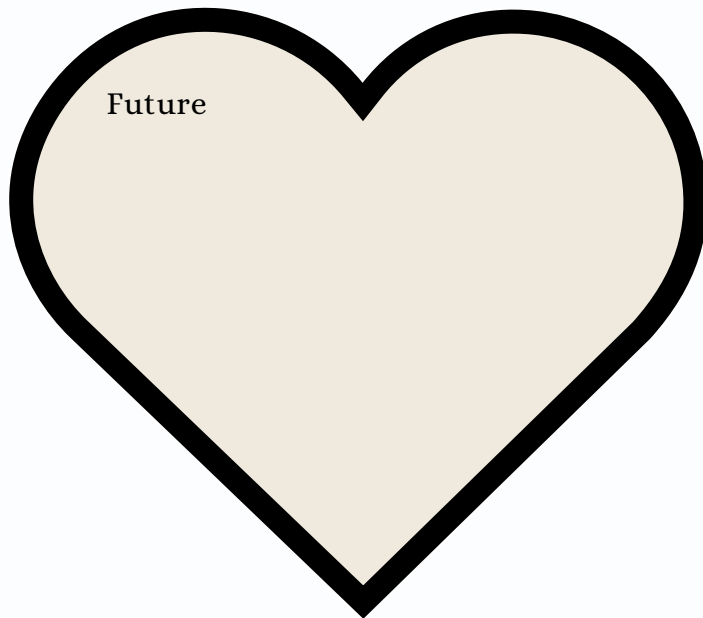
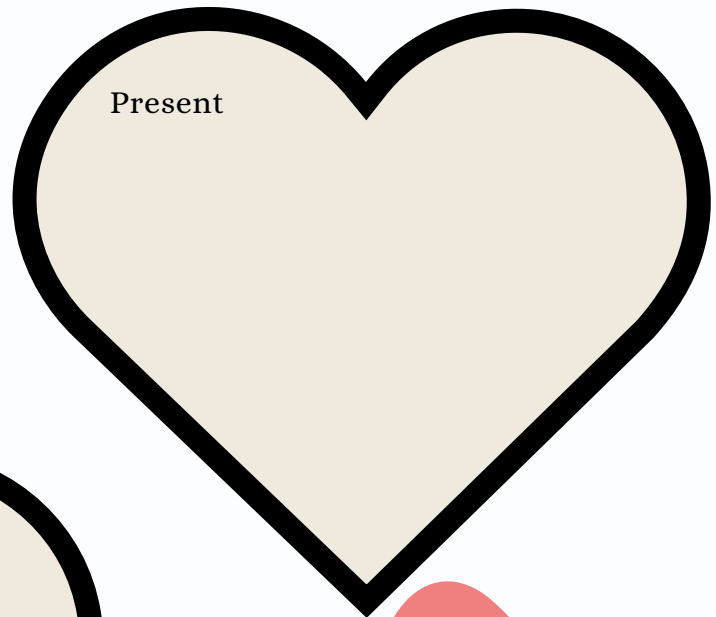
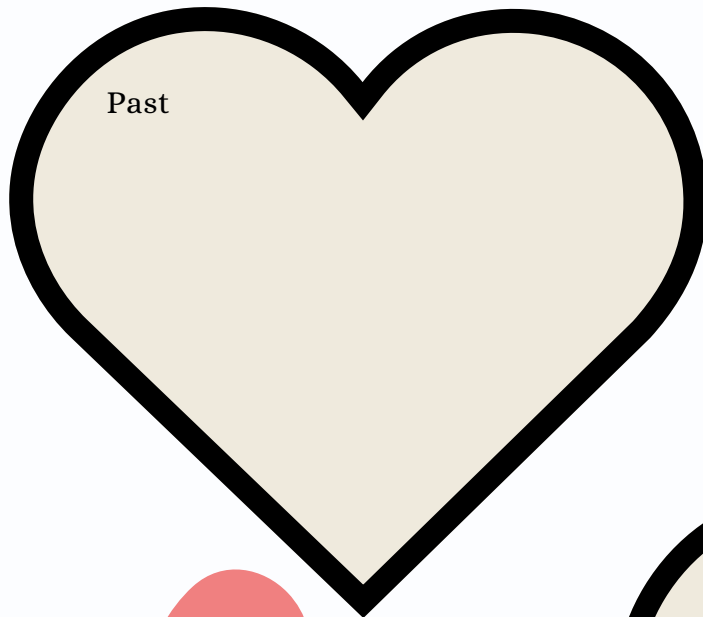
### Character Ending Point

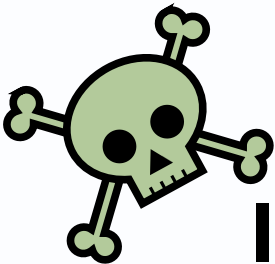
Internal:

External:

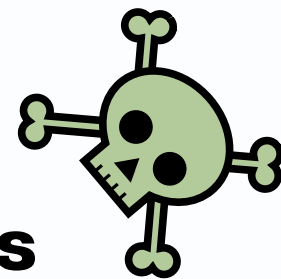
# The Fruits - Interactions & Relationships

## Romance





# The Fruits -



## Interactions & Relationships

### Enemies, Rivals, and Strained Relationships

Enemy:

Describe why:

Enemy:

Describe why:

Enemy:

Describe why:

Rival:

Describe why:

Rival:

Describe why:

Rival:

Describe why:

Strained:

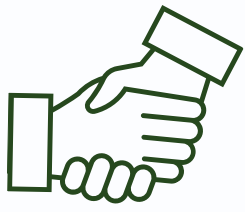
Describe why:

Strained:

Describe why:

Strained:

Describe why:



# The Fruits - Interactions & Relationships

## Allies



# The Seedlings - Dialogue and Voice

**Narration Directions:** Write a short scene, first-person, from your character. Focus on their voice and personality. Copy this page as many times as you need to complete the scene.

Narrative:





# The Seedlings - Dialogue and Voice

## Talking to Friends Dialogue Directions

Write a short conversation between your character and a friend.  
Concentrate on how your character speaks with someone they are comfortable with..

Dialogue:



# The Seedlings - Dialogue and Voice

## Talking to Enemies Dialogue Directions

Write a short conversation between your character and an enemy. Concentrate on how your character's speech changes from when they spoke to a friend.

Dialogue:



# The Garden - Basic World-Building

## The Environment

Places Your Character Frequent and Why

Place:  
Why:

Place:  
Why:

Place:  
Why:

Place:  
Why:

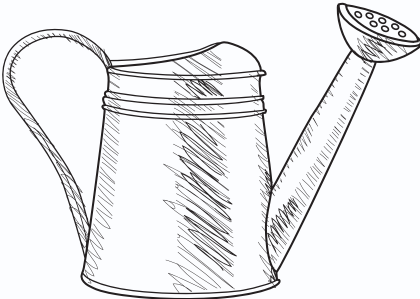
Place:  
Why:

Place:  
Why:

Place:  
Why:

Place:  
Why:

Place:  
Why:



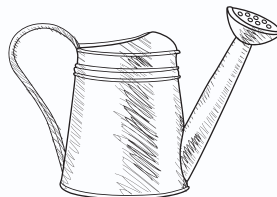
# The Garden - Basic World-Building

**The Culture, History, and Politics**  
How They Affect Your Character

**Culture** (Customs or Traditions that Affect the Character) -

**History** (World Events that Impacted the Character) -

**Politics** (Character's Opinion about the Laws, Rules, or Government) -



# The Seasons - Cycles and Patterns



**Life Phases**  
How Your Character Reacts To...



Success:

Failure:

Strees:

Love:

Loss:

# Challenge: The Wildlife - Symbolism and Themes

## Animals and Colors

What Represents the Character or Mood of the Character and Why

What Animal Represents the Character and Why?

What Colors Represent the Character or Character's Mood and Why?

# Challenge: The Wildlife - Symbolism and Themes

## Object Motifs

What you value says something about you. What items have a special meaning to your character and why?

Item: Importance:	Item: Importance:
----------------------	----------------------

Item: Importance:	Item: Importance:
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Item: Importance:	Item: Importance:
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