



# How to Create a Character Profile

With a little help from [blog.reedsy.com](http://blog.reedsy.com)

## PART 1: THE OUTER LAYER

**Definition:** How your character looks, sounds, and moves.

**Similar to:** An offender profile.

### THE BASICS

Name: Edward (Eddie)  
Age: 79  
Place of birth: Pretoria  
Current location: Johannesburg  
Nationality: South African  
Education: Various  
Occupation: Retired  
Income: Pension

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Height: 183cm  
Eye color: Brown  
Hair color: Grey-white  
Build: Rounding and soft belly

Distinguishing features (tattoos, scars, birthmarks)?

N/A  
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 Preferred outfit?

Always a button up shirt (preferrably the brand 'supersport'), jeans and smart shoes

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 Glasses?

Yes - simple black rectangular frame

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Yes - simple black rectangular frame

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 Accessories (cane, pipe, necklace, etc.)?

Handkerchief in pocket at all times

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(NOT his hearing aid)

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Grooming:

Disheveled  Smart, very put together

Untidy but clean

Other? If so, explain:

Neat and tidy

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Distinguishing "tics" and mannerisms:

No - very quiet and always watching (but also pretty gosh darn deaf)

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 Health? Do they suffer from chronic illnesses?

Does being overweight count?

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 Handwriting (sloppy, neat, careful, unintelligible):

Unintelligible - just like every ex-profession should have

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 Gait:

Confident, powerful strides

Lazy stroll

Fast, walks at a clip

Distracted, eyes on the ground

Other? If so, explain:

Quiet but confident walk, except up hills (that's a struggle)

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## SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION

Style of speech (elevated, educated, peppered with slang, etc.)?

Soft and educated (never speaks on issues that he is not fully informed on)

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Tempo of speech (rapid, slow, measured, drawl, etc.)?

Slow and measured - patient 'teacher' voice

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Do they have an accent?

- Yes
- No

Pitch (melodious, gravelly, deep, etc.)?


Deep and 'old-man' voice

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Posture:

- Stiff, military
  - Slouching
  - Casual and relaxed
  - 'Turtle,' tired
  - Other? If so, explain:  
Straight but not stiff
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 Gesturing:

- Only when agitated or eager
  - Doesn't gesture
  - Compulsive "hand-talker"
  - Controlled, only to make a point
  - Other? If so, explain:  
Looks like he's been a lecturer and is always pointing at some chalk board
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 Level of eye contact (direct, shifty, etc.): Always direct, patient eyes

Speech impediments: N/A


Distinguishing speech "tics":


N/A (unless being lost in thought counts)

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 Preferred curse word: N/A

 Catchphrases: Age is a matter of feeling, not years

 Laughter? What do they tend to find funny?

Slow and deep laughter from the bottom of his belly - finds everything funny.

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Describe their smile? Cheeky old-man smile

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Emotive? Do they wear their emotions on their sleeve? How easily can others to read them?

Professional when need be - does not show much emotion

Open and loving around family and friends

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They have a resting Thinking face.

- Bitch 😏
  - Angel 😇
  - Neutral 😐
  - Confused 😕
  - Other? If so, explain:  
Always lost in thought
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## PART 2: THE FLESH


**Definition:** How your character is a product of their environment.

**Similar to:** The character bio and backstory.

### ◀ THE PAST

 Hometown: Pretoria

Type of childhood (sheltered, neglected, etc.)? Carefree, playing outside, running in neighbourhood

 Education:


Trade - Instrument maker

Teaching Technical Drawing??? Whatever that's called

Diploma - Theology

→ Were they involved in organizations and clubs at school?

Sports 

Debate 

Gay / Straight Alliance 


Model UN 

Drama 

Other? If so, explain:

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→  At graduation, they were named Most Likely To become a teacher in the yearbook.

 Jobs (if applicable)? What would their résumé look like?

Lecturer at University of Witswatersrand

Minister of NG Kerk

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

→ Dream job as a child? Why?

To become a teacher - always loved to learn, help, share knowledge, etc

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 Who were their role models growing up? Describe them:

Oldest brother - also became a minister

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Greatest regret:

Doesn't believe in living with regrets

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 Hobbies growing up:

SPORT!! (cricket, rugby, debating, swimming, etc.)

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 Favorite place to be as a child?

Outside playing cricket

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 If they could change one thing from their past, what would it be? Why?

Going to study overseas before settling down

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Major turning points or "life beats" in childhood:

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→ Earliest memory:

Sitting on father's lap while he reads cowboy books (specifically Louis L'Amour novels)

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→ Saddest memory:

Death of mother

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→ Happiest memory:

Wedding day

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→ Clearest memory:

Wedding day

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 What are their skeletons in the closet?

Letting the university where he worked stop the course he ran that helped students transition from underprivileged schools to university by teaching technical drawing skills for mechanical engineering

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Three adjectives to describe them as a child?

Quiet, Sporty, Academic

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What advice would they give to their younger self?

Life is not as serious as everyone makes it seem

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Criminal record:

Do a few speeding fines count?

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## FAMILY



Father:

Age (if living): N/A

Occupation: N/A

Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

Strict Afrikaans father with a big heart. Love of reading and books. Adored Eddie's wife.

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Mother:

Age (if living): N/A

Occupation: N/A

Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

Loving and quiet mother - patriarchal society was a problem

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\_\_\_\_\_



Siblings:

How many? 6

What are their names? Ages? Retired or passed away

Briefly describe their relationship(s) with your character:

Lots of fun times when young, grew astranged when older, now most have sadly passed away

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Children (if applicable):

How many? 3

What are their names? Ages? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe their relationship(s) with your character:

We don't talk about two of them.

Loving relationship with the third.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Extended family:

Grandparents: Passed away

Uncles and aunts: Passed away

Cousins: LOTS (Big Afrikaans family)

Other: N/A



Family's economic status: Living in a small retirement home

How often do they see their family in a year? Close = often; extended = every few years

# ♥ EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

👍 Closest friends? Describe them:

Wife = life

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👋 Other significant friends:

Few select other men and women in the retirement village

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☹ Enemies? Describe them:

That one man down the road who keeps asking his wife to dance

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How are they perceived by...

➔ ...strangers in the street?

Quiet and thoughtful, in his own world

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➔ ...acquaintances at a work function?

Reputation precedes him as a quiet and clever man

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➔ ...colleagues in the office?

Smart man, good lecturer, hard working colleague

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➔ ...authority figures?

I mean, he doesn't have a criminal record, and he looks like a sweet old man

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➔ ...friends in their friend circles?

Great to discuss stuff with, knowledgeable but not pretentious

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➔ ...children?

All three children adore their father

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→ ...the opposite sex?  
Very handsome and cute for an old man  
Wife = life


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→ ...extended family?  
Occasional huge family reunions

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 What social media platforms are they on?

- Twitter     Facebook
  - Reddit     Instagram
  - Snapchat     Tumblr
  - Other? If so, explain:  
This blog website thing
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 How would they use their social media platforms?


Memes - grandchildren busy teaching him how  
His own blog website

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 How would they fill out an online dating profile for themselves?

Would never  
Wife = life

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 What's their role in a group dynamic?

- Leader     Joker
  - Parent     Hype man
  - Mooch     Other? If so, explain:  
Lecturer
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 How quickly do they respond to emails?

Not quickly at all - only just learnt how to use a computer

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Who do they depend on for...

→ ...practical advice?  
Colleagues

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→ ...mentoring?  
Wife

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→ ...a wingman?  
Wife

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→ ...emotional support?

Wife

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→ ...moral support?

Wife

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What do they want from a relationship?

Wife = life

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💡 Who would be their ideal partner?

Wife = life

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💡 Do they have a significant other? Describe them:

Wife = life

Met as a teenager (on the school bus). She was one year below him.

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How many people would attend their funeral?

More than he thinks

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## PART 3: THE CORE

**Definition:** How your character is deep down.

**Similar to:** A psych test.

### 💡 PSYCHOLOGY

💡 What do they do on rainy days?

Read a good cowboy novel

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Are they:

Street-smart


Book-smart

Optimist

Pessimist

Introvert


Extrovert

 What is their favorite sound?

Birds (he feeds them every morning at 5)

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 Favorite place in the world?

Small cottage in Durban

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 What secrets do they keep? What are they most afraid of people finding out?


N/A

Tries to be open as possible

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 What do they want the most?

To learn HTML lol

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Biggest flaw:

Way too stubborn for his own good

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Biggest strength:

Ability to teach

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Biggest fear:

Death of wife before him

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What is their biggest accomplishment?

Setting up the transitional course thing at his university

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What is their idea of perfect happiness?

Life is only as happy as you make it

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 Do they want to be remembered? What for?

Not really - believes there are many better humans out there

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 Favorite quote:

"If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things"

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How do they approach...

→ ...power?

Lou "All animals are equal... some are just more equal than others"

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→ ...ambition?

"All animals are equal... some are just more equal than others"

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→ ...love?

Wife = life

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→ ...change?

Trying to accept change more - not good in past

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
 What is the one object or possession that they would rescue from their burning home?

Wife

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 What (or who) bores them?

Boring people

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 What makes them angry?

Boring people

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What do they look for in a person?

Wife = life

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How strong is their moral compass? When, specifically, are they willing to compromise their morals?

No

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 List the last 10 books that they read:

Louis L'Amour x10

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Which fictional world would they most wish to visit?

None

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If they didn't have to sleep, what would they do with the extra time?

Read

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 What are their pet peeves?

People sneezing into open air

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 If they won the lottery, what would they do?

Travel with wife = life

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Describe the character's bucket list at the ages of:

15: Travel the world

20: Get married to wife = life

30: Start the program thing at his university

40: Run the program thing at his university

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 List the 10 songs that would occupy their All-Time Most Played playlist on Spotify:

What is Spotify? Oooh? That's so cool! (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction - The Rolling Stones; Sunshine Of Your Love - Cream; Brown Eyes Girl - Van Morrison

Whole Lotta Love - Led Zeppelin; Hey Jude - The Beatles; Oh, Pretty Woman - Roy Orbison; Yesterday - The Beatles

For What It's Worth - Buffalo Springfield; Born To Be Wild - Steppenwolf; The Sound of Silence - Simon & Garfunkle


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What is the best compliment that someone ever paid them?

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 In an elevator, do they push the elevator button more than once?

Yes

No

What would they want their tombstone to say? N/A (organ donation or cremation only)

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## THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

Story goal:

Cute old man trying to learn HTML and spread anything new that he learns with the world

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Story motivation:

LOSELY based on my own grandfather

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