



Creating characters – Protagonist vs Antagonist

PROTAGONIST

ANTAGONIST

<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;"> </div>					
Antagonists are more difficult to deal with (and therefore more real and engaging) if they share some similarities with the protagonist.					
Antagonists are the protagonists of their own story. However, not every antagonist will feel antagonism towards the protagonist.					
Positive characteristics they don't share:	Conflict caused by their differences:	Positive characteristics they share:	Conflict caused by their similarities:	Positive characteristics they don't share:	Conflict caused by their differences:
Negative characteristics they don't share:	Specific examples of conflict:	Negative characteristics they share:	Specific examples of conflict:	Negative characteristics they don't share:	Specific examples of conflict:

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Protagonist

Pursues the primary goals of the plot of a story. He/she:

- Is driven by a goal, duty, or curiosity
- Has a relatable character flaw
- Loyal to cause, family, and allies
- Experiences change
- Brave and courageous
- Superior intelligence or strength
- Invokes trust or likeability

Antagonist

Stands in opposition to advancing the primary goals of the plot of a story. He/she:

- Is driven by a goal or duty, or a desire to avoid something
- Has a relatable character flaw
- Loyal to cause, family, and allies
- Adapts easily to obstacles and change
- Has a secret or important information
- Superior intelligence or strength
- Invokes feelings of unease or distrust

Antagonists can be: The nature (e.g. a storm), The personification of evil, The machine, The supernatural (e.g. a ghost), The mastermind, The bully, The monster, The authority figure

Instructions:

- Note down your story title at the top.
- Write down the character names in the shaded boxes on either side. Remember, protagonist and antagonist are relative terms; the antagonist is the protagonist of their own (life) story.
- List the negative and positive characteristics that each character possesses.
- Note down the conflicts that might arise from the differences or similarities between the characters.
- Create specific scene examples that demonstrate the conflict.

STORY LOGIC NET

Instructions

Print out the card and give it to a student or a group of students. Ask them to utilize the ideas written in the back of the card.

The protagonist is the main character. An antagonist is an optional character who works against the protagonist and is often an equally strong character. Antagonists are a simple way to introduce conflict into a story, and the quickest way to create an antagonist who will fit in with the protagonist's plot, is to consider their relationship.

Antagonists who bear similarities to the protagonist are more difficult for the protagonist to deal with, because the character can't completely distance themselves from them, and can't knowingly treat them as "other" or "bad".

Giving the antagonist both positive and negative qualities can also make them more difficult for the protagonist to overcome, because it makes them more human and more likeable.

In order to use this worksheet:

1. Note down your story title at the top.
2. Write down the character names in the shaded boxes on either side. Remember, protagonist and antagonist are relative terms; the antagonist is the protagonist of their own (life) story.
3. List the negative and positive characteristics that each character possesses.
4. Note down the conflicts that might arise from the differences or similarities between the characters.
5. Create specific scene examples that demonstrate the conflict.

The empty template can be also found at:

<https://www.eadeverell.com/wp-content/uploads/06.-Protagonist-and-Antagonist.pdf>

Suggestions

1. As an exercise, ask the students to create an antagonist of themselves.
2. Pose reflective questions to assist the students. Highlight qualities of the protagonist or the antagonist and guide them to find their opposites..
3. Select character pairs from known stories that the children like and try to demonstrate their protagonist-antagonist relationship
4. The Antagonist doesn't have to be always a "bad guy". He/she can have some good in him/her.
5. Balance the power or the significance of the antagonist. If he/she "loses" easily to the protagonist or loses despite being more powerful, the story becomes awkward