

# Bookish Cosplay

With Author Jaimie Engle

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Character

- As Desire
- As Image
- As Voice
- As Action
- As Thought
- Presented by the Author
- As Conflict
- Stock & Flat Characters



Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 5 Ways to present character

### DIRECTLY

1. Appearance (image)
2. Speech (voice)
3. Action
4. Thought

### INDIRECTLY

1. Author interpretation or telling

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

## AS DESIRE

Copyright The Write Engine, 2019

4

---

---

---

---

---

## Character yearning

They don't passively  
observe.

They risk:

- Reputation
- Lives
- Soul

Copyright The Write Engine, 2019

5

---

---

---

---

---

## Developing Your Character

\_\_\_\_(NAME)\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_ (adj.)\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_-year old \_\_\_\_ (NOUN)\_\_\_\_  
who wants \_\_\_\_\_.

Copyright The Write Engine, 2019

6

---

---

---

---

---

What can't he/she live without?

me → you



revenge

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Katniss: The Hunger Games**

Katniss Everdeen is a strong-willed, seventeen-year old hunter in a dystopian America who wants to keep her sister safe.

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

8

---

---

---

---

---


---

**Translate to Cosplay:**

Scavia risks her life to save Lykke in Dreadlands: Wolf Moon

She is confident, fierce, and loyal.

Show your character's inner strength



Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

## AS IMAGE

---

---

---

---

---

## Character shown

Get to know them on the outside first.

- Reader Experience Through Senses
- Emphasize particular physical trait
- Reveal inside from outside

---

---

---

---

---

## Introducing the Character

Show & Tell Time

- Laugh
- Clothes
- Walk or Move
- Gestures
- Objects held
- Food & Drinks
- Voice tone
- Skin texture
- Hair scent

---

---

---

---

---

## Translate to Cosplay:

Marty McFly Jr

- Hoverboard
- Lightup Shoes
- Shrinking Jacket
- Shiny Hat

He is from the future.



Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

## AS VOICE

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Character speaks

Hearing their voice in your head first.

- Inhabit their persona
- Think from their POV
- Their diction
- Their speech rhythm
- Their thoughts

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

15

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Write a Monologue in Their Voice

- It doesn't take much, does it, for...
- And what I said was true...
- I know right away I'm going to...
- I've become a different person since...
- I don't like anyone to watch me...
- You call that music?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Voluntary vs. Involuntary Expression

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • Baggy jeans   | • Slim-fits  |
| • Shaved head   | • Long curls |
| • Body piercing | • Pearls     |

**"I am a member of THIS group or THAT one."**

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Voluntary vs. Involuntary Expression

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| • Disheveled | • Staring    |
| • Poor taste | • Sweating   |
| • Blushing   | • Clumsiness |
| • Slurring   | • Stuttering |

**"My body language defines who I am."**

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Voluntary vs. Involuntary Expression

- Speech style
  - Rapper's patter
  - Lawyer's convolutions
- Speech content
  - Says she's angry
  - Doesn't say she's broke.

**"Involuntary is more credible; no lies."**

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Text vs. Subtext

"What he said was very generous, but he kept checking to see how it was going over."

"His glances belied his words."

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Translate to Cosplay:

Elastigirl is a superhero.  
She hides her identity in costume.  
She has an alter ego in real life.  
Her voice changes depending on her status.



---

---

---

---

---

---

## AS ACTION

---

---

---

---

---

### Speak louder than words

No matter what you say, what you do shows what you really want.

- Discover
- Decision
- Action
- Change

---

---

---

---

---

### Discovery

Katniss discovers that her sister's name has been drawn for the 74th Annual Hunger Games.

---

---

---

---

---





## Decision

Katniss decides to volunteer herself as tribute in Prim's place.

---

---

---

---

---



## Action

Katniss walks to the stage and takes her place as District 12's sacrifice.

---

---

---

---

---



## Change

Katniss must now experience the horrors of the Hunger Games.

---

---

---

---

---

## Translate to Cosplay:

- Belle's father is captured.
- Belle decides to take his place.
- Beast takes her as prisoner instead of her father.
- Belle must live in the castle under the Beast's authority forever.



Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

28

---

---

---

---

---

---

## AS THOUGHT

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

29

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Get inside their head

Working backward to achieve desire.

- Specific desire
- Certain goal
- Decision

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

30

---

---

---

---

---

---

## What situation is your character in now?



Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

31

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Translate to Cosplay:

Sam Winchester is a hunter on the CW's Supernatural.

Samantha Winchester is his cosplay counterpart.

Pick a part of the story and embody it!



Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

32

---

---

---

---

---

---

**AS PRESENTED BY THE  
AUTHOR**

Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

33

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Authorial Interpretation

This is indirect & telling  
to reveal character.

- Appearance
- Speech
- Action
- Thought

---

---

---

---

---



## Pros of indirect method

Free to move in time and space.

Free to know anything you choose (regardless of  
character's knowledge).

Godlike to tell reader what you feel.

---

---

---

---

---



## Cons of indirect method

- Less immediacy
- Less vividness of detail
- Reader can't judge for themselves.

With this method, we learn more about the  
narrator's attitude than the character's  
interpretations.

---

---

---

---

---



## When do I use Author Interpretation?

To convey large amounts of information in a short time, it's best to tell through the indirect method.

Do not use to describe human change, which requires action and immediacy of scene.

---

---

---

---

---



## Example: Peter Pan, by J.M. Barrie

All children, except one, grow up. They soon know that they will grow up, and the way Wendy knew was this. One day when she was two years old she was playing in a garden, and she plucked another flower and ran with it to her mother. I suppose she must have looked rather delightful, for Mrs. Darling put her hand to her heart and cried, "Oh, why can't you remain like this for ever!" This was all that passed between them on the subject, but henceforth Wendy knew that she must grow up. You always know after you are two. Two is the beginning of the end.

---

---

---

---

---



## Translate to Cosplay:

- Mash up characters
- Interpret characters
- Create your own characters
- Piece together from thrift stores
- Sew or build your own
- Buy premade at a costume store
- Hire a seamstress to build or sew for you

---

---

---

---

---

## AS CONFLICT

Copyright The Write Engine, 2019

40

---

---

---

---

---

### Contradiction is key

Conflicting methods of  
presenting character to  
the reader.

- Cliche appearance
- Contradictory action
- Opposing thoughts
- Betraying speech

Copyright The Write Engine, 2019

41

---

---

---

---

---



Copyright The Write Engine, 2019

42

---

---

---

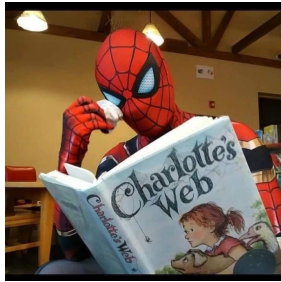
---

---

## Translate to Cosplay:

- Looks like Spidey
- But Spidey is reading
- And he's reading Charlotte's Web
- Of course, he's crying.

SURPRISE US!



---

---

---

---

---

---

## STOCK & FLAT CHARACTERS

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Flat characters:

Defined by a single idea or quality.  
May exist only to fulfill a function.  
Reader knows little about them.

Shake them up with contradiction between one or more of the other types of character reveals.

Like "Movie Extras": Delivery Boy, Waitress...etc.

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Stock characters:

Present a single idea or quality.  
May satire human types.  
Are not lifelike or complex characters.

Shake them up by giving them desire, motive, or wants.

Types: absent-minded professor, rich widow, rock wannabe, naive girl, evangelist.

Copyright The Writers Circle, 2019

46

---

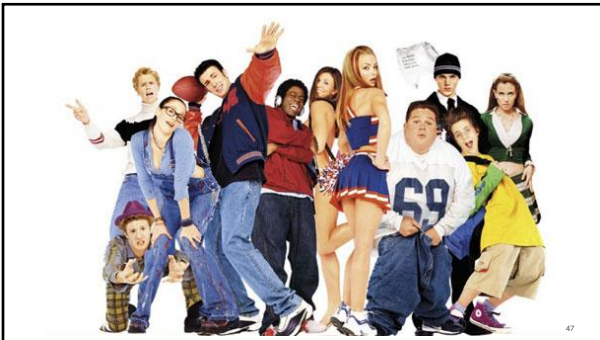
---

---

---

---

---



47

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Now you try!!**

Copyright The

48

---

---

---

---

---

---



- What character do you look like?
- What character do you know well enough to become?
- Have you created your own character to share?
- How will you become the character, through your own means, a professional, or premade purchase?
- Can you make a unique mashup?



Copyright The Write Engle, 2019

49

---

---

---

---

---

---

## About Your Instructor:



Jaimie Engle is an award-winning children's book author from Melbourne, Florida. Before releasing her anti-bullying fantasy adventure, *Clifton Chase and the Arrow of Light*, she ran a body shop, played an alien on TV, and managed a hip-hop band.

She creates character driven cosplay, where magic turns ordinary into extraordinary, and crafts story-scented candles to pair with her novels.

More at [www.theWRITEEngle.com](http://www.theWRITEEngle.com).

50

---

---

---

---

---

---