Handout - Children's Book Mastery Summit
Multi-Dimensional Characters
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In our webinar, we explored the topic of Multi-layered Characters and how to create them. We offered some "Questions to You" that give you something to reflect upon during the drafting and/or revision process as well as a few fun "Games" to play with and discover the many layers of your characters. You'll find both below!

Questions To You:
Use these questions to peel back the layers of your character and get to know them better:

- If your character were to look in the mirror and see their reflection, what would they notice first?
- If your character has a trait, is it noticeable to others? If yes, in what ways might they find it endearing or annoying?
- What is one thing your character does or says early in the story that makes them likeable or relatable?
- Which of your character's key traits are revealed in the opening pages/spreads? Where?
- What would your character rush into a burning building to save? And why that?
- For each external trait, go back and ask yourself: What is the why behind that trait? (Why is your character this way?)
- Are your character's actions and choices consistent with who they are?

Games:
Begin by bringing to mind a character from your current WIP or any previous projects. If you were going to tell us about your character, what are the first five things that come to mind? Jot those down.

Then continue to play by choosing one or more of the following options:

1. Make a list of opposites to the traits you wrote down for your character. Give one of those traits to another character in your book (or make one up). Then put them in a setting and write a short scene that captures their interaction.
2. Writing from your character's pov, have them defend one of their traits that others might view as negative.
3. An artist wants to paint a portrait of your character – write a note to the artist in your character's voice that spells out their ideas or wishes for the portrait. When you finish, go back to your list of traits and see which ones are reflected in the note.

Have an a-ha from the webinar or would like to share how you'll apply what you learned? We'd love to hear from you! You can reach us at Kate@writeforkids.online or Valerie@writeforkids.online