

The Main Character's in Town!



Guidelines:

Objective: Students pretend to interview the main character of a fictional book for the local newspaper. Students generate at least five thoughtful questions and then answer them from the character's point of view.

Brainstorm questions that you might ask the main character of your book. A good question will require more than a yes or no answer. The character should always be asked to explain his or her answers. The questions should reveal the character's beliefs, hopes, goals, and aspects of his or her personality. Think about the following prompts:

- “How did you feel when...?”
- “What did you hope would happen when...?”
- “Why did you...?”

You will switch roles from that of the interviewer to the character being interviewed. The answers to your questions should be written in first person (use “I” and “me” in your answers). How do you think the character would answer the questions? You might not know exactly how the character would respond. However, you should use what you know about the character to answer the questions. Use information from the book to support your answers. There are many possible answers and you should give reasons for your responses.

You will present this to the class with a partner, each of you playing one of the roles (interviewer, character). Or, if you choose, you can read both of the parts of your interview yourself, changing your voice to signal when you are the character and when you are the interviewer.

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Imagine that you are a reporter for your local newspaper. The editor has just called to give your latest assignment. You have been asked to interview a special visitor to your town—the main character from the book you just read!

Materials:

lined paper

Directions:

1. Book Title: _____

Author: _____

2. Write a paragraph describing the main character of the story. Include the character's age, hometown, occupation, hobbies, personality traits, etc.

Name: _____

Description: _____

3. Think about what you would like to ask the character and what the newspaper's readers would want to find out about him or her. Write at least five questions that will reveal interesting and important information about the character. Write the questions on the next page. If the question requires a yes or no answer, ask the character to explain his or her response. Base some of the questions on events in the book, such as:

- "How did you feel when...?"
- "What did you hope would happen when...?"
- "Why did you...?"

4. After you have written the questions, put yourself in the character's shoes and write a rough draft of your answers on the lines labeled "Response." Use information from the story in the character's responses. If you need more room, use the back of this page or another sheet of paper.

Question 1: _____

Response: _____

Question 2: _____

Response: _____

Question 3: _____

Response: _____

Question 4: _____

Response: _____

Question 5: _____

Response: _____

5. Proofread your questions and answers and add any additional information that will make your writing stronger. Then write a final draft on a separate sheet of paper.

Name _____ Date _____

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Book Title: _____

	Possible Points	Points Earned
1. Did you hand in your project on time?	15	
2. Are your questions interesting and thoughtful?	25	
3. Are your responses thoughtful and complete?	30	
4. Did you write a rough draft?	10	
5. Did you write a final draft with at least five questions and responses?	10	
6. Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?	10	
Total:	100	

Comments: _____
