

Characterisation in Fantasy – blog post

#	Archetype	Description	Examples (in fantasy)
1	The Hero	<p>The protagonist who rises to meet a challenge and saves the day.</p> <p>Strengths: courage, perseverance, honour</p> <p>Weaknesses: overconfidence, hubris</p>	<p>Harry Potter, <i>Harry Potter</i> (Nayareen on DeviantArt)</p> <p>Eragon, <i>Inheritance Cycle</i> (Goblinkor on Tumblr)</p> <p>Éowyn, <i>LOTR</i> (Eleni Tsami on Reddit)</p> <p>Alanna, <i>The Song of the Lioness</i> (Cover art)</p>
2	The Lover	<p>The romantic lead who's guided by their heart.</p> <p>Strengths: humanism, passion, conviction</p> <p>Weaknesses: naivete, irrationality</p>	<p>Lan Mandragoran, <i>The Wheel of Time</i> (Darko-Stojanovic-Art on DeviantArt)</p> <p>Kazi, <i>Dance of Thieves Duology</i> (@gi.gioia on Pinterest)</p>
3	The Explorer	<p>A character naturally driven to push the boundaries of the status quo and explore the unknown.</p> <p>Strengths: curious, driven, motivated by self-improvement</p> <p>Weaknesses: restless, unreliable, never satisfied</p>	<p>Bilbo Baggins, <i>The Hobbit</i> (andrewblood.deviantart.com)</p> <p>The Little Mermaid (Annie Stegg Gerard)</p> <p>Jackaby, <i>Jackaby</i> (Fanart)</p>
4	The Outlaw	<p>The rebel who won't abide by society's demands.</p>	<p>Aragorn, a.k.a., the Strider, <i>LOTR</i> (Artist not indicated on Pinterest)</p> <p>Vin, <i>Mistborn</i></p>

		<p>Strengths: independent thinking, virtue, owes no favors</p> <p>Weaknesses: self-involved, potentially criminal</p>	<p>(Dominik Broniek on Pinterest)</p> <p>Jude, <i>The Folk of the Air Trilogy</i></p> <p>(Frostbite Studios on Wiki)</p>
5	The Jester	<p>A funny character or trickster who provides comic relief, but may also speak important truths.</p> <p>Strengths: funny, disarming, insightful</p> <p>Weaknesses: can be obnoxious and superficial</p>	<p>The Cheshire Cat, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i></p> <p>(nickybarkla.deviantart.com)</p> <p>Luna Lovegood, <i>Harry Potter</i></p> <p>(Reddit harrypotter)</p> <p>Fred and George Weasley, <i>Harry Potter</i></p> <p>(nyoncat.tumblr.com)</p>
6	The Sage	<p>A wise figure with knowledge for those who inquire. The mother figure or mentor is often based on this archetype.</p> <p>Strengths: wisdom, experience, insight</p> <p>Weaknesses: cautious, hesitant to actually join the action</p>	<p>Dumbledore, <i>Harry Potter</i></p> <p>(KazakovaArts)</p> <p>Elrond, <i>LOTR</i></p> <p>(Rene Gross)</p> <p>Galadriel, <i>LOTR</i></p> <p>(Bryan F. Rosado Art)</p> <p>Oromis, <i>Inheritance Cycle</i></p> <p>(Midjourney AI generated by lcmilan user on Reddit)</p>
7	The Magician	<p>A powerful figure who has harnessed the ways of the universe to achieve key goals.</p> <p>Strengths: omniscience, omnipotence, discipline</p> <p>Weaknesses: corruptibility, arrogance</p>	<p>Gandalf, <i>LOTR</i></p> <p>(MattDeMino on DeviantArt)</p> <p>Chade, <i>The Farseer Trilogy</i></p> <p>(Pti-SPB on DeviantArt)</p> <p>Hermoine Granger, <i>Harry Potter</i></p> <p>(Devil-ink)</p>

8	The Creator	<p>A motivated visionary who creates art or structures during the narrative.</p> <p>Strengths: creativity, willpower, conviction</p> <p>Weaknesses: self-involvement, single-mindedness, lack of practical skills</p>	<p>Kvothe, <i>The Name of the Wind</i> (GisAlmeida on DeviantArt)</p> <p>Takhisis, <i>Dragonlace Chronicles</i> (StawickiArt on DeviantArt)</p>
9	The Ruler	<p>A character with legal or emotional power over others.</p> <p>Strengths: omnipotence, status, resources</p> <p>Weaknesses: aloofness, disliked by others, out of touch</p>	<p>Annakin, <i>The Black Magician Trilogy</i> (kir-tat on DeviantArt)</p> <p>Sabran IX, <i>The Priory of the Orange Tree</i> (Roman Ankenbrandt)</p>
10	The Everyman	<p>A relatable character who feels recognizable from daily life.</p> <p>Strengths: grounded, salt-of-the-earth, relatable</p> <p>Weaknesses: lacking special powers, often unprepared for what's to come</p>	<p>Neville Longbottom, <i>Harry Potter</i> (LoraLindemann on DeviantArt)</p> <p>Alice, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> (symphony_sonata on Instagram)</p>
11	The Caregiver	<p>A character who continually supports others and makes sacrifices on their behalf.</p> <p>Strengths: honourable, selfless, loyal</p> <p>Weaknesses: lacking personal ambition or leadership</p>	<p>Samwise Gamgee, <i>LOTR</i> (astrolauu on Tumblr)</p> <p>Molly Weasley, <i>Harry Potter</i> (JetztGehtsRoos on Reddit)</p>

12	The Innocent	<p><i>A morally pure character, often a child, whose only intentions are good.</i></p> <p>Strengths: morality, kindness, sincerity</p> <p>Weaknesses: vulnerable, naive, rarely skilled</p>	<p>Lydia and Nash, <i>Dance of Thieves Duology</i> (bookpeoplestudio.wordpress.com)</p> <p>Oak, <i>The Folk of the Air Trilogy</i> (frostbite.studios)</p> <p>Fitz, <i>Assassin's Apprentice</i> (Magda Villeneuve)</p>
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