

TOSS OUT MALE TROPES: MEN ARE MORE THAN BLACK AND WHITE

Part 3: Characters and Archetypes and Tropes... Oh My!



JP Robinson & Gregg Bridgeman

Toss Out Male Tropes!

Men are More than Black & White

Part 3: Characters and Archetypes and Tropes... Oh My!

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Successful Christian Self Publishing

<http://SuccessfulChristianSelfPublishing.com/MoreThanBW/>

This URL will be provided several times.

There are just **three** conflicts in storytelling.

1. Man vs. the World
2. Man vs. Man
3. Man vs. the Supernatural

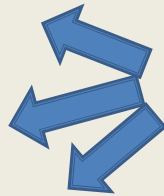


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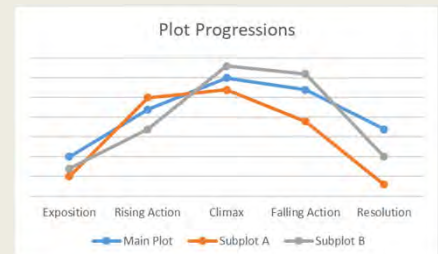
There are just **seven** basic plots

1. Overcoming the Monster
2. Rags to Riches
3. The Quest
4. Voyage and Return
5. Rebirth
6. Comedy
7. Tragedy



Some add **two more** plots

- Mystery
- Rebellion against “the One”



Plots

There are just **seven** basic plots. Some claim that Rebellion Against “The One” is a plot line. This typically concerns a hero who rebels against the all-powerful entity that controls the world until he is forced to surrender to that power. In some versions, “the One” is portrayed as benevolent, as in the story of *Job*, while in others “the One” is malevolent, as in *1984*, *Brazil*, or *The Hunger Games*.

Some claim that Mystery is a plot and define a Mystery plot as a story in which an outsider to some horrendous incident or event (such as a murder) then tries to discover the truth of what happened.

The problem I have with these additions is that they mainly fall into one of the previous seven. For example, what is being investigated in a Mystery is a story based on one of the other plots or the Rebellion against “the One” is an overcoming the Monster plot or a Rebirth plot.

I believe that either of these can fit nicely inside the traditionally recognized seven classical plots.

1. Overcoming the Monster
2. Rags to Riches
3. The Quest
4. Voyage and Return

5. Rebirth
6. Comedy
7. Tragedy

Refine by

Format

Paperback (33,423,906)

Hardcover (12,257,389)

Kindle Edition (3,243,255)

Large Print (174,035)

Audible Audio Edition (105,775)

Printed Access Code (28,073)

Digital Access Code (5,268)

Loose Leaf (116,985)

Audio CD (472,108)

Board Book (185,553)

Kindle Unlimited

☐ Kindle Unlimited Eligible
(1,138,602)

Amazon offered 33 MILLION + Paperbacks 5 years ago

A call to Amazon in April 2019 resulted in the answer: "...more than 42 million new paperbacks written in English but the number changes daily..."

Amazon is the largest book seller in the world. So, we can gauge what the market looks like through them. A call to Amazon in April 2019 resulted in the answer: "...more than 42 million new paperbacks written in English but the number changes daily..."

What Makes Your Story Great?



What Makes Your Story Great?

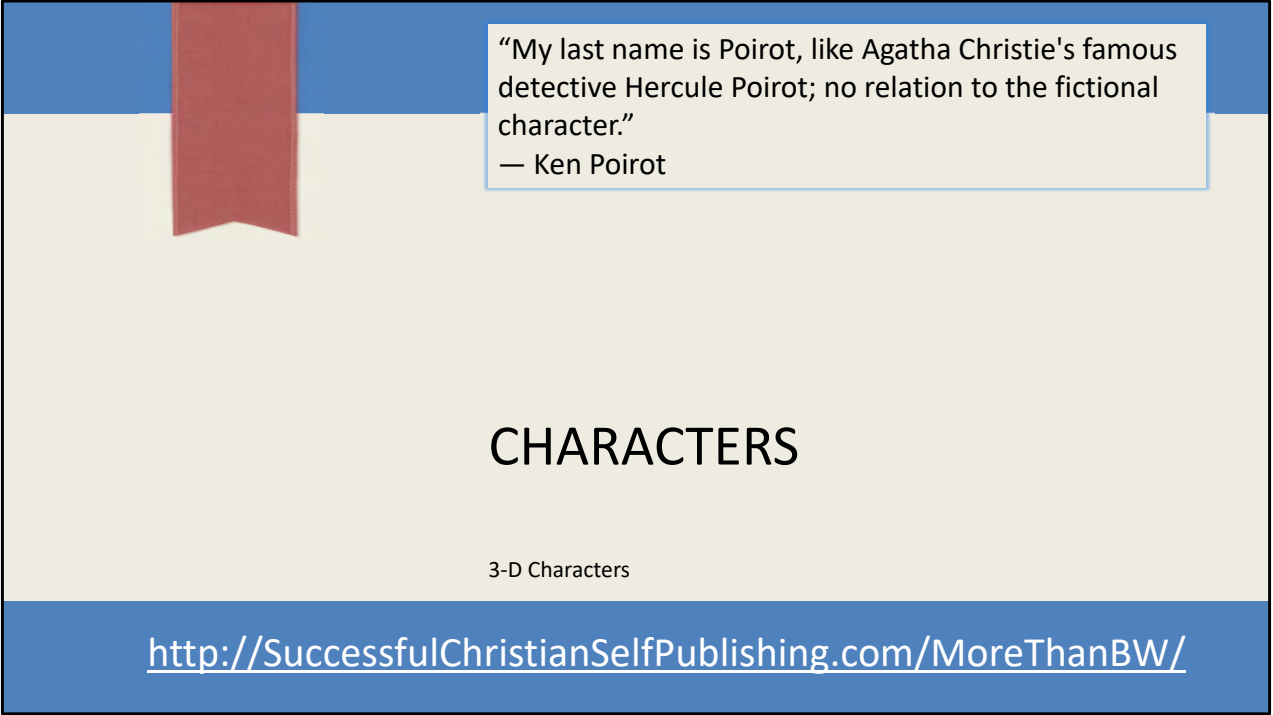
So, with 7 basic plots, 3 basic conflicts, and tens of millions of books currently on sale, how does your once upon a time, something happened to some people and then they did this and that happened and the end stand out among the millions of books out there?



Characterization

True to Life 3D Characters

Great Characterization. What a reader is seeking when they pick up a fiction book is a character with which they can relate.



"My last name is Poirot, like Agatha Christie's famous detective Hercule Poirot; no relation to the fictional character."

— Ken Poirot

CHARACTERS

3-D Characters

<http://SuccessfulChristianSelfPublishing.com/MoreThanBW/>

Three-D Characters

"My last name is Poirot, like Agatha Christie's famous detective Hercule Poirot; no relation to the fictional character."

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Characterization is the Key

- Three Dimensional **Characters** are the key to any great book
- Great books are **character** driven books
- Exact plot points and dialogue can be forgotten but **great characters** are memorable

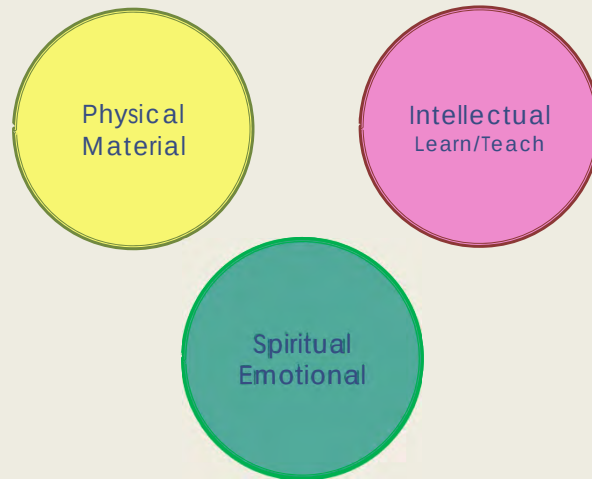
Characterization is the Key

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Great books are character driven books.

Exact plot points and dialogue can be forgotten but great characters are memorable

3 Spheres of Characterization



For the next little while, we're going to talk about craft. And, this is key.

I realize this is step 1, but if you take only one thing from this class, my prayer is that you take this.

There are 3 Spheres of Characterization:

1. Physical/Material
2. Intellectual/Learn/Teach
3. Spiritual/Emotional

Prop Character

The bellhop took our bags.



The “bellhop” is unformed and unfilled with no description and no dialogue. He or she may as well be a luggage cart.

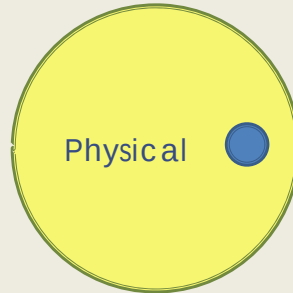
The PROP character

The bellhop took our bags.

The “bellhop” is unformed and unfilled with no description and no dialogue. He or she may as well be a luggage cart.

One Dimensional Character

The blue uniformed bellhop took our bags.



The “bellhop” is no longer unformed, he or she is uniformed and we have a vague idea of his or her physical appearance.

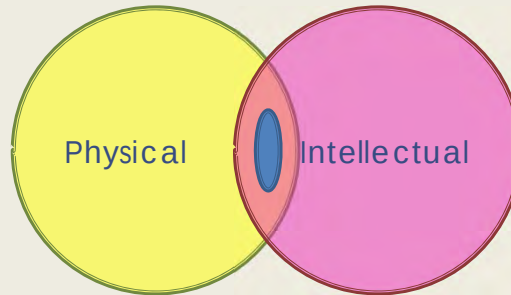
One Dimensional Character

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Two Dimensional Character

The blue uniformed bellhop put on a practiced smile before he asked, “First time here, I take it?”



Two-Dimensional Character

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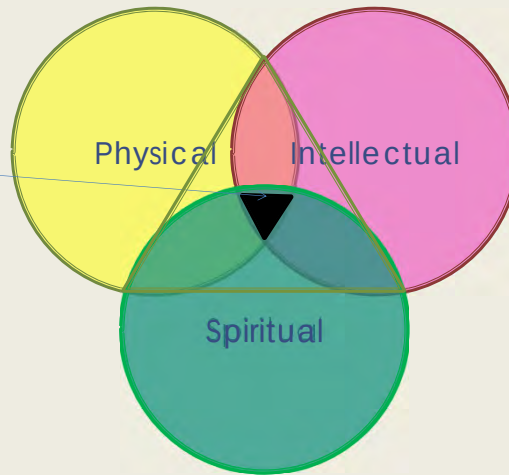
Physical Sphere

Intellectual Sphere

The “bellhop” is no longer one dimensional. He is uniformed and smiles. In addition, he speaks with an interrogative, so we have a vague idea of his powers of observation.

Balanced 3 Dimensional Character

Characterization
inside a balanced
story



Balanced 3 Dimensional Character

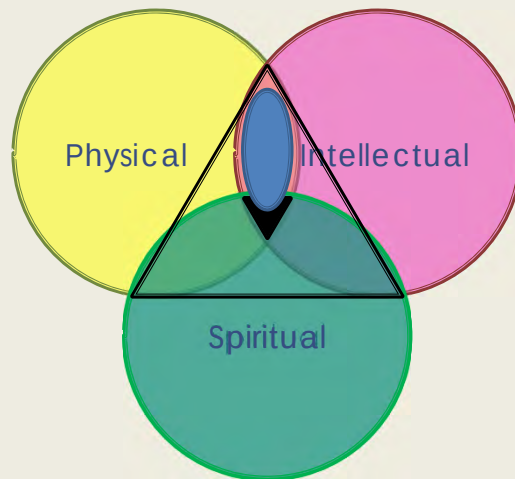
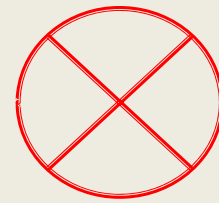
The spiritual sphere is there intentionally because it is the foundation. It's the building block of the other two spheres.

On the table in front of you, please find colored notecards. Think of one thing that makes up the physical attributes of a character and write that on the yellow card. This can be anything from location to description to battle wounds to attraction to the opposite sex.

If you have a pink card, think of one thing that makes up an intellectual side of a character. This can be education, mental illness, thought processes, intelligence.

If you have a green card, think of one thing that makes up the spiritual part of a character. This can be anything from religious preference to belief in a deity to holiday observances.

The Hunger Games Metaphor

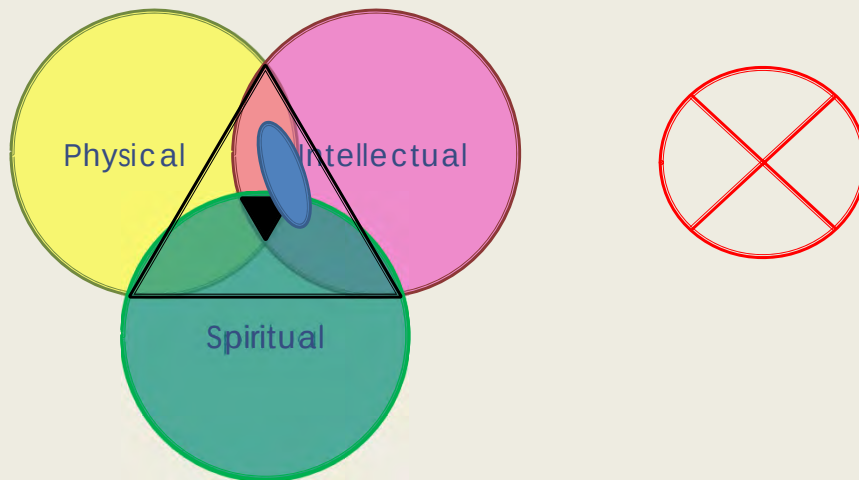


The Hunger Games Metaphor

The Hunger Games series of books completely lacked any spirituality.

1. Physical/Material
2. Intellectual/Learn/Teach
3. ~~Spiritual/Emotional~~

Mainstream Secular Romance

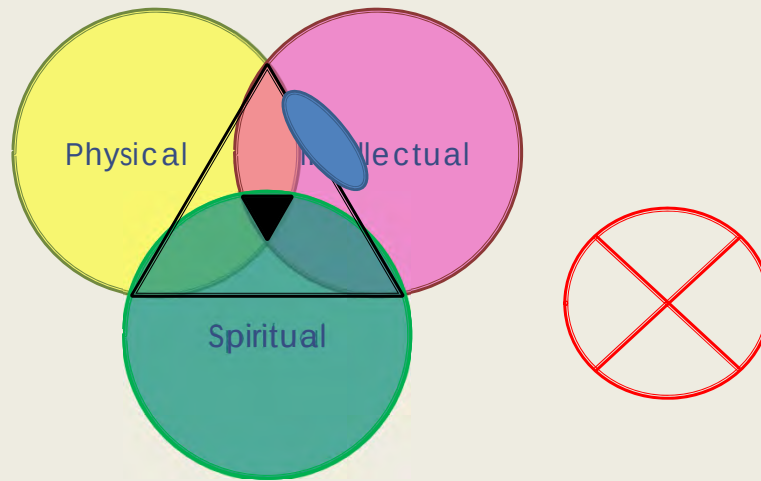


Mainstream Secular Romance

Mainstream Secular Romance lacks genuine emotion and spirituality and overemphasizes physicality.

1. **Physical/Material**
2. Intellectual/Learn/Teach
3. ~~Spiritual/Emotional~~

Traditional Christian Romance

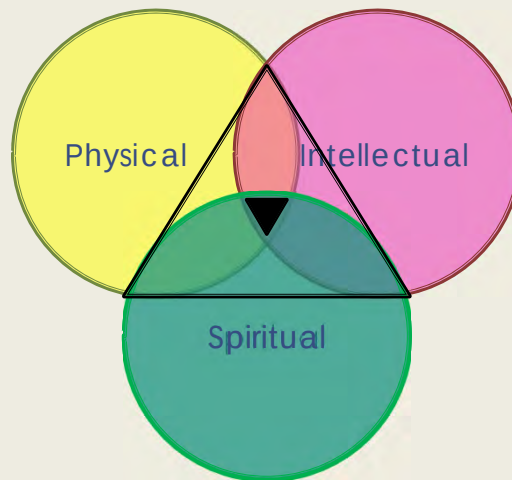


Traditional Christian Romance

Traditional Christian Romance lacks genuine physicality and overemphasizes emotion and spirituality.

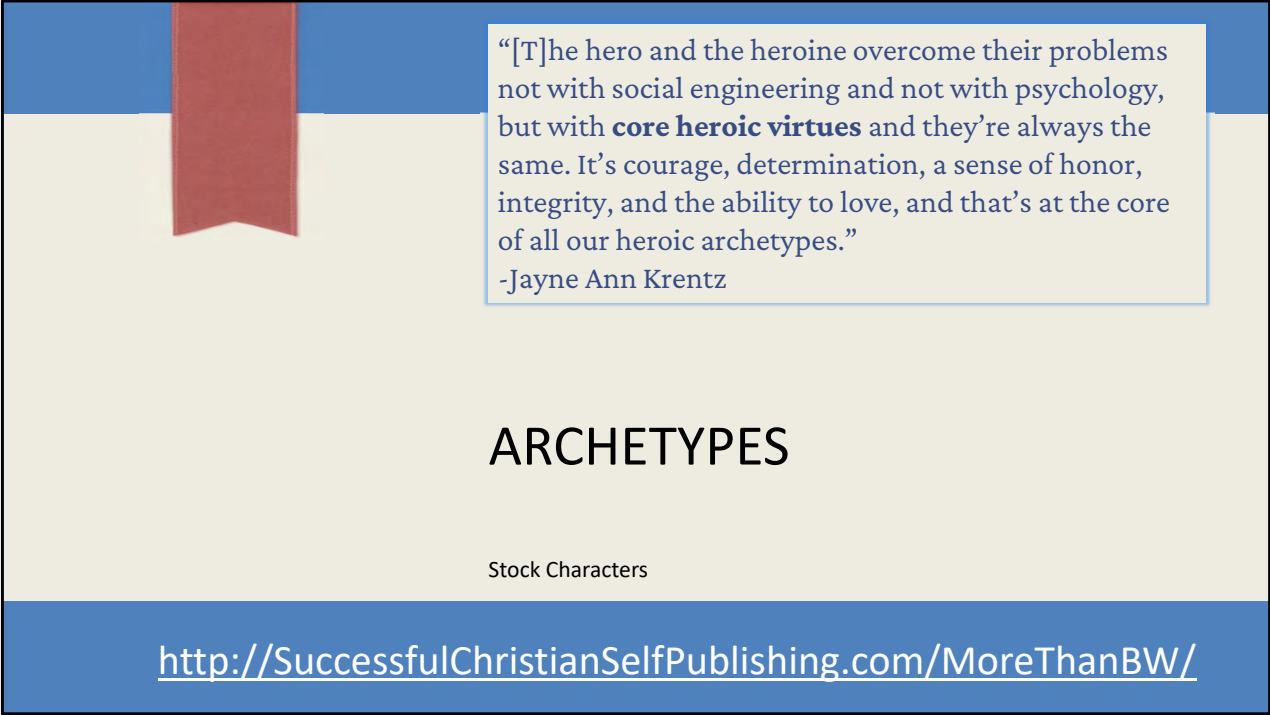
1. ~~Physical/Material~~
2. Intellectual/Learn/Teach
3. **Spiritual/Emotional**

The Goal



Having a 3-dimensional character makes the character relatable and memorable to the reader.

Note that the Spiritual sphere is the foundation of any 3-D character.



“[T]he hero and the heroine overcome their problems not with social engineering and not with psychology, but with **core heroic virtues** and they’re always the same. It’s courage, determination, a sense of honor, integrity, and the ability to love, and that’s at the core of all our heroic archetypes.”
-Jayne Ann Krentz

ARCHETYPES

Stock Characters

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Archetypes are “stock” characters. They are essentially caricatures of characters.

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

1. **Absent-Minded Professor**—An absent-minded scientific genius (Example: Doc Brown from *Back to the Future*)
2. **All Loving Hero**—A character who loves everyone and will suffer for the sins of his or her loved ones.
3. **Anti-Hero**—A hero who is driven by pursuit for power, sex, money, control, or particular vices and—because of this—often selfish, anti-social, power-hungry, and materialistic. But these types sometimes showcase some heart in the end (Example: Scarlett O'Hara from *Gone with the Wind*)
4. **Anthropomorphic Personification**—The living embodiment of a fundamental abstraction. They may be god-like in power, but have a much narrower focus and struggle with limits based on what they represent (Example: Joy, Sadness, Fear, Anger, and Disgust from *Inside Out*)
5. **Audience Surrogate**—Characters who the audience sympathize with by actively seeing themselves as them. Usually victims of social challenges (Example: Bella Swan from *Twilight*)

Listing 104 Archetypes

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

6. **Bad Boy**—A macho loner that doesn't care that he's bad. He's actually proud of it and that often attracts others (Example: Dallas from *The Outsiders*)
7. **Big Fun**—The big, fun, lovable guy or girl (Example: Hurley from *Lost*)
8. **Black Knight**—An evil fighter or antagonist (Example: Darth Vader from *Star Wars*)
9. **Blind Seer**—Characters with a sacrifice of sight that has greater cosmic knowledge (Example: Chirrut from *Rogue One*)
10. **Boss**—The boss of everyone. They are usually controlling, competitive, stubborn, aggressive, and always call the shots
11. **Boy Next Door**—The average nice guy that does everything in the right. Clean, wholesome, patriotic, and **loves mom, apple pie, and baseball.**
12. **Career Criminal**—This character devotes his life to committing high stakes crime and is often smart and highly skilled (Example: Al Capone from *The Untouchables*, most career politicians in real life)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 13. **Champion**—The character who is devoted to the cause/life/honor of one character and everything that they entail (Example: Sam from *The Lord of the Rings*)
- 14. **Child**—First suggested by psychologist Carl Jung, in more recent years, author Caroline Myss has suggested that the child, out of the four survival archetypes (victim, prostitute, and saboteur), is present in all humans This character is young in age or spirit, and loves adventure. (Example: Linus van Pelt from *Peanuts*, *Tommy Pickles* from *Rugrats*, and Peter from *Peter Pan*)
- 15. **Chosen One**—They have been chosen by someone or some force and are the only ones capable of resolving the plot (Example: Neo from *The Matrix*)
- 16. **Chooser of the Chosen One**—This is the character who finds and chooses The Chosen One (Example: Morpheus from *The Matrix*)
- 17. **Conscience**—A classic character type whose sole purpose is to act as the hero's conscience and moral compass (Example: Jiminy Cricket from *Pinocchio*, Clarence from *It's a Wonderful Life*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 18. **Contender**—A competitive underdog (Example: Rocky from *Rocky*, Daniel from *The Karate Kid*)
- 19. **Corrupter**(aka the **Saboteur**)—Their primary role in the story is to bring out the worst in everyone (Example: Rumpelstiltskin in *Once Upon a Time*)
- 20. **Damsel in Distress**—A noble and innocent woman in need of rescue (Example: Kim in *Taken*, Lois Lane in *Superman*)
- 21. **Dark Lord**—The near-immortal personification of evil (Example: Sauron from *The Lord of the Rings*)
- 22. **Dumb Muscle**—This character lacks intelligence, or fails to showcase it, and is tasked with doing the heavy lifting of the villain or any antagonist
- 23. **Elderly Master**—A wise, powerful man or woman teaching their powerful craft to a young student (Example: Mr. Miyagi from *The Karate Kid*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 24. **Egomaniac** (aka **Narcissist**)—They like to be the center of attention and usually are often very insecure, overcompensating for a deep need to be loved and/or revered.
- 25. **Fall Guy** (aka **Scapegoat**)—The innocent to whom the powerful or empowered assign blame
- 26. **Father Figure**—The man who showcases authority, yet has a pure heart and will do all he can to protect those he loves and watches over, either physically or emotionally (Example: Atticus from *To Kill a Mockingbird*)
- 27. **Femme Fatale**—A beautiful but mischievous and traitorous woman (Example: Selina Kyle aka Catwoman in *Batman*)
- 28. **Ferryman**—A character that acts as a guide or aid, allowing characters to travel over near impossible obstacles to reach specific destinations (Example: Heimdall from *Thor*)
- 29. **Final girl**—The “last girl standing” in a horror movie (Example: Laurie from *Halloween*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 30. **Gentle Giant**—Big, strong, and intimidating, but they've got a heart of gold. (Example: Fezzik from *The Princess Bride*)
- 31. **Gentleman Thief**—A very charming, sophisticated, and well-mannered thief (Example: Thomas Crown from *The Thomas Crown Affair*, Neal Caffrey from *White Collar*)
- 32. **Girl Next Door**—An average but attractive girl with a wholesome quality to her. She is nurturing and forgiving and **loves mom, apple pie, and baseball players**.
- 33. **God/Goddess**—All powerful but often showcase human qualities in the end (Example: Zeus from *The Little Mermaid*)
- 34. **Good King** (aka the **King**)—He is honorable, virtuous, wise, and understanding. He cares about his subjects no matter how seemingly unimportant they are and puts their well-being above his own (Example: King Arthur from *Excalibur*)
- 35. **Grande Dame**—A very flamboyant woman, often used as a stereotype for an elderly high society socialite (Example: Melanie [Olivia de Havilland] in *Gone with the Wind*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

36. **Grotesque**—An often tragic character that induces both fear and pity because bodily deformities overshadow a perfectly normal and likable personality (Example: August Pullman from *Wonder*, the unnamed Hunchback from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*)
37. **Harlequin** (aka the **Idiot**)—A clown or professional fool (Lt. Frank Drebin [Leslie Nielsen] from *The Naked Gun*)
38. **Herald**—This character sets the Hero/Protagonist on the path of adventure (Example: Obi-Wan Kenobi from *Star Wars*)
39. **Hero**—The character that faces the most direct danger and conflict as a basis for the central aspect of the story
40. **Hotshot**—This character is often skilled, but reckless, known for taking risks (Example: Maverick from *Top Gun*)
41. **Hunter of Monsters**—A character whose sole mission is to eliminate whatever monster(s) in question (Example: Quinn from *Jaws*, *Beauwulf*)

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- 42. **Ingenue**—A young woman who is endearingly innocent and wholesome (Example: Ali Mills [Elisabeth Shue] in *The Karate Kid*)
- 43. **Imposter** (aka the **Pretender**)—They are intelligent and take advantage of situations and characters
- 44. **Jester**—They are always lighthearted and joking but always pure of heart and truly caring for others (Example: Will Ferrell in *Elf*)
- 45. **Jock**—A male athlete who is often muscular, but not very smart
- 46. **Kirk**—The Kirk is a captain or a similar leader who needs to be practical rather than emotional or distant, often having to make decisions in the middle of The Spock or The McCoy (Example: “Jim” James Tiberius Kirk from *Star Trek*)
- 47. **Knight-errant**—A noble Knight on a Quest
- 48. **Loner**—The Loner isolates him or herself and often struggles to connect with others. They feel alien to others around them (Example: Jim from *Rebel Without a Cause*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 49. **Loser**—They don't catch any breaks and always seem to get the short end of the stick. They are also either usually unmotivated and don't care about how they are perceived, or they do and try to make the change, only to fail time and time again (Example: Charlie Brown from *Peanuts*)
- 50. **Lovable Rogue**—They break the law and don't always seem to care about anyone else, but they often show enough heart in the end for audiences to like them (Example: Han Solo from *Star Wars*)
- 51. **Lovers**—Star-crossed lovers who fall romantically in love, despite the constant conflict of other characters. They're often from different sides of the tracks (Example: *Romeo and Juliet*, AND Tony and Maria from *West Side Story*, Danny and Sandy from *Grease*, Johnny and Baby from *Dirty Dancing*)
- 52. **Loyalist** (see also **Sidekick**)—They have the strong ability to support others and always remain loyal in doing so despite their own lack of abilities and feeling of self-worth (Example: Dr. Watson from *Sherlock Holmes*, R2D2 from *Star Wars*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 53. **Mad Scientist**—Usually insane or highly eccentric. They often play the role of the villain or antagonist and always feel that the science they are exploring is above and beyond any human rights issues or ethics (Example: Dr. Moreau from *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, Doctor Frankenstein from *Frankenstein's Monster*)
- 54. **Magician** (aka **Shaman**)—A man with special insight or mystical powers coming to the aid of the protagonist (Example: Dick Halloran from *The Shining*)
- 55. **Maiden**—Usually the innocent and pure female that is often in need of rescue (see Damsel in Distress). She can be naive, sometimes overly self-confident, and can be attractive but also child-like (Example: Princess Fiona from *Shrek*)
- 56. **Manic Pixie Dream Girl**—Characters that have eccentric personality quirks, are very girlish, and usually dreamingly cute and attractive (Example: Jessica Day from *The New Girl*, Princess Ann [Audrey Hepburn] from *Roman Holiday*)
- 57. **McCoy**—The McCoy cares for others deeply, a proverbial heart of gold, and always seeks to do the right thing, no matter what the situation (Doctor Leonard H. "Bones" McCoy from *Star Trek*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

58. **Mentally or Socially Disabled**—Dependent and sometimes draining on others around them at times. Often autistic. (Example: Raymond from *Rain Man*)
59. **Mentor**—The mentor is the adviser, the expert, and is usually intelligent and wise in whatever field of expertise or philosophy that they are known for. They care for the hero and want to be in the hero's life, which usually starts with conflict at first.
60. **Monster**—They are either half human or not human at all and usually provoke fear and panic.
61. **Mother Figure**—The mother figure is always the source of nurturing and comfort, offering guidance while also sometimes coming off as over-controlling and worrisome, but always acts from the heart (Example: Martha Kent from *Superman*, Aunt May from *Spider-man*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 62. **Mother's Boy**—A man who is excessively attached to his mother. This is played for all types of emotions and genres, including comedy, drama (Example: Owen from *Throw Mamma From the Train*), and tragedy (Example: Norman Bates from *Psycho*)
- 63. **Nemesis** (aka the **Challenger**)—They usually exist to hate the hero, for any number of reasons. The nemesis or challenger is often similar to the hero in many ways and thus is always trying to overshadow due to jealousy or outright hate (Example: Loki from *Thor*)
- 64. **Nerd**—Usually a socially-impaired, obsessive, or overly-intellectual person. They often have a good heart and always mean well (Example: Dana Skully from *The X-Files*)
- 65. **Noble Savage**—A wild outsider with noble characteristics that has little to no experience with society's ways (Example: *Tarzan*)
- 66. **Observer**—They often witness all that goes on, but remain quiet and calm throughout. They are usually philosophical and every time they speak or act, it's important (Example: Rafiki from *The Lion King*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

68. Outlaw—Similar to the “Rebel” they are romanticized, charismatic, and can often be the social bandit of the story

69. Peacemaker—They try to force the peace between characters and situations. Usually the voice of reason between all.

70. Pessimist—For them, the glass is always half empty. They won’t take risks and often complain about everything every chance they get (Example: Hudson from *Aliens*)

71. Prostitute (aka the Mercenary)—engages in the sale or negotiation of their own integrity or spirit due to fears of physical survival or for financial gain. Prostitutes/mercenaries sell (or sell out) their skills, talents, ideas, their bodies, and any other expression of “self” but always at some personal cost. (Miss Kitty from *Gunsmoke*, Peachy Carnehan [Michael Caine] in *The Man Who Would Be King*, Fantine from *Les Miserable*)

72. Psychopath—Sociopathic and violent, this character solves problems by inflicting violence upon others, usually with fatal results (Example: Hannibal Lecter from *The Silence of the Lambs*)

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- 73. Rebel**—the rebel takes the “Loner” attributes to the next level as they push up against anyone and everyone, walking strictly to a beat of their own drum without caring what others think (Example: John Bender from *The Breakfast Club*)
- 74. Redshirt**—The expendable character that is never given much backstory and usually dies soon after being introduced. Taken from the original *Star Trek* series where characters with red shirts were often those expendable characters going out on missions with the main characters. (anyone wearing a Red Shirt in any original *Star Trek* episode)
- 75. Reluctant Monster**—The Reluctant Monster usually has no idea that they’re a monster at all. They are often a member of a species that traditionally does nasty things to people, but that is not in their own personal nature (Example: *Frankenstein’s Monster*)
- 76. Rightful King**—A lost or forgotten just ruler whose return or triumph restores peace (Example: Aragorn of Arathorn from *The Lord of the Rings*, Richard the Lionheart from *The Adventures of Robin Hood*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 77. Seeker** (aka the **Sage**)—They are always on a quest for the truth, uncovering mysteries, lies, and deception despite all dangers both big and small that they face on a personal and professional level (Example: *Erin Brockovich*)
- 78. Shrew**—A bad-tempered or aggressively assertive woman (Example: Cruella DeVille from *101 Dalmations*)
- 79. Side Kick** (see also **Loyalist**) — The friends and helpers of the main hero. They are much like the loyalist, but play a more active part in the Hero's adventures (Example: Robin from *Batman Forever*, Short Round from *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*)
- 80. Sociopath**—A person with a personality disorder better described as antisocial personality disorder, or ASPD, often manifesting itself in antisocial attitudes and behavior and a near total lack of conscience. They are intelligent, cunning, and dangerous (Example: Kapitan Amon Goeth [Ralph Fiennes] from *Schindler's List*)
- 81. Southern Belle**—A young woman that often represents the American Old South's upper class daughter or young and pretty woman (Example: Scarlett O'Hara or any of her sisters from *Gone With the Wind*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 82. **Spock**—The Spock is an archetype that focuses on logic, rules, and reason while fighting for the greater good (Example: Spock from *Star Trek*)
- 83. **Straight Man**—Exists alongside a funny character. Their serious and no-nonsense attitude makes his partner look all the more crazy and funny (Example: Abbott from *Abbott and Costello*)
- 84. **Storyteller**—A character that is noted for his or her ability to tell tales, or those that choose to do so, even to the dismay of the other characters (Example: Wally from *"Crocodile" Dundee*)
- 85. **Superhero**—A hero with special powers that vows to protect the world around them (Example: all DC Cinematic Universe characters, most Marvel Cinematic Universe characters)
- 86. **Super Soldier**—A soldier who operates beyond human limits or abilities (Example: Captain America from the Marvel Cinematic Universe)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 87. Supervillain**—Antithesis to the Superhero
- 88. Swashbuckler**—A joyful, noisy, and boastful renaissance era swordsman or pirate (Example: Jack Sparrow from *Pirates of the Caribbean*)
- 89. Tomboy**—A girl usually interested in sports, activities, and displaying attributes that often fall under the umbrella of boys and men in society (Example: Scout from *To Kill a Mockingbird*)
- 90. Tortured Artist**—They often display constant torment due to frustrations with art and society
- 91. Town Drunk**—Usually a male in a small town who is known to be drunk in public fashion (Example: Otis Campbell in *The Andy Griffith Show*, Louie Pheeters “Festus” in *Gunsmoke*)
- 92. Tragic Hero**—A hero with a major flaw that leads to his or her eventual death and downfall (Example: Anakin Skywalker from the *Star Wars* prequels, Achilles from *Troy*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

- 93. Trickster**—They are often the trouble makers, liars, and the self-absorbed. They can be like jesters, but they often make more of an impact on the main characters in some way, shape, or form by the end of the story (Example: Buddy Love in *The Nutty Professor*)
- 94. Troubled Teen**—They hate rules and defy authority, usually because of depression, hormones, or due to social differences. Despite the hard attitude they portray, they are often the most vulnerable (Example: Landon Carter [Shane West] from *A Walk to Remember*)
- 95. Turncoat**—The character who switches sides at some point to help out the other side (Example: Cypher from *The Matrix*)
- 96. Victim**— The root of the Victim archetype is a fear that you cannot survive or will not survive. Not just physical survival but the survival of your identity, your hopes and dreams or sense of self.

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98. Villain—An evil character in a story

99. Warrior (aka **Veteran** aka **Soldier/Sailor/Marine/Airman** etc.)—a military type through and through, he is misunderstood by anyone who is not a Warrior and this frustrates him. His adopted “family” consists of his fellow Warriors, sometimes even if they represent an opposing faction. Unlike the Psychopath, Warriors typically do not seek to kill. Rather, the Warrior seeks to use exactly enough force necessary to forward the diplomatic aims of his faction. The Warrior understands honor and nobility, is unquestionably loyal, and silently copes with remorse. (Example: Raiden [Clive Owen] from *Last Knights*, Todd [Kurt Russell] from *Soldier*)

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104 Archetypes & Stock Characters

100. Whiskey Priest—A priest or ordained minister who teaches at a high standard but also showcases moral weakness through drinking alcohol or engaging in some other vices (Example: Friar Tuck from *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, any time Stephen King portrays a holy person ever, Anglican vicar Sidney Chambers from BBC's *Grantchester*)

101. Wildly Insane (aka Crazy)—this character is completely out of touch with reality and locked into patterns of behavior that are consistently harmful to himself or others, usually due to some trauma or traumatic events (Example: Lady Macbeth from *Macbeth*, Ophelia from *Hamlet*)

102. Wise Fool—A “fool” or somewhat socially hindered character with an attribute of wisdom (Example: Dori from *Finding Nemo*)

103. Wise Old Man—An elderly character who provides wisdom to the protagonist (Example: Gandalf from *The Lord of the Rings*)

104. Yokel (aka Hick)—A term referring to the stereotype of unsophisticated back country characters (Example: Carl Spackler from *Caddyshack*)

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Can you recognize some of the most common and false/
misleading male tropes or determine if they represent men
accurately.



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TRUTH or TROPE?: Combine Career Criminal + Villain= Gangsta Thug

TRUTH or TROPE?

Black men in media are often portrayed in stereotypical roles (thugs, pimps, gangsters) which supports the American blacks as criminals label (Chochran, Dhillon, Rabow, Vega, & Yeghnazar, 2012). Moreover, an element of criminality remains a constant character trait often associated with these characters (Noakes, 2003).



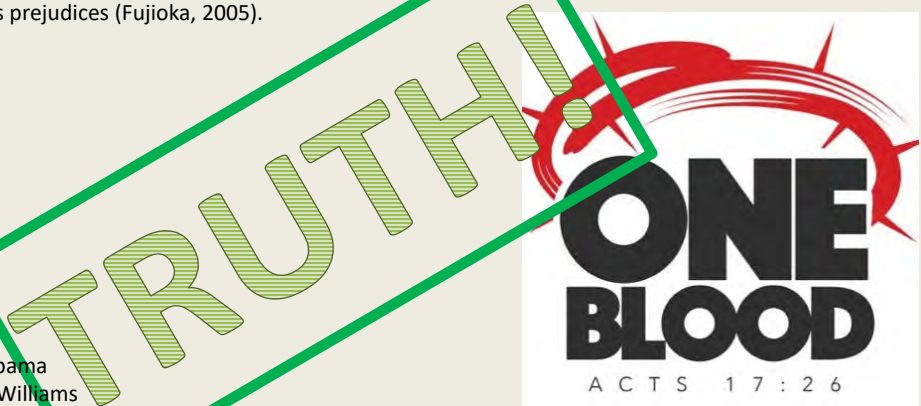
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This pervasive trope perpetuates long-held stereotypes that American blacks are manifestly criminogenic in and of themselves, and further fuels prejudices (Fujioka, 2005).

Martin Luther King, Jr.
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Frederick Douglas
Ben Carson
Thurgood Marshall
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The vast majority of combat veterans suffer from a mental disorder called post traumatic stress disorder.

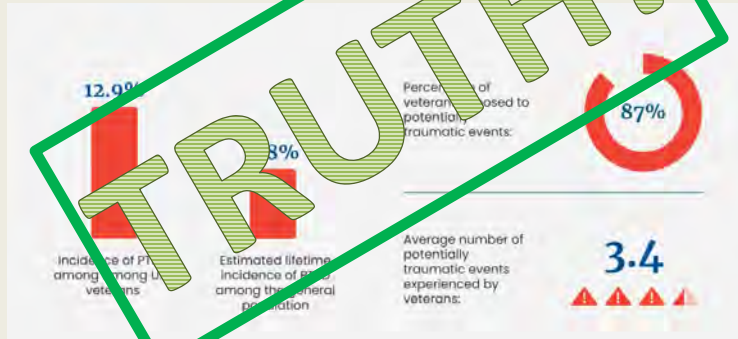


TRUTH or TROPE? Warrior + Wildly Insane = Crazy Veteran

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TRUTH or TROPE?: Combine the Warrior + Wildly Insane = Crazy Vet

Statistics show that 6% to 8% of the general population suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder with fewer than 15% exposed to at least 1 traumatizing event. Across the entire U.S., about 8 million U.S. adults have PTSD in a given year. Meanwhile, 87% of combat veterans are exposed to on average 3.4 traumatizing events, yet less than 13% of veterans ever show any symptoms of post-traumatic stress or a stress related metal disorder.



National Library of Medicine: National Center for Biotechnology Information, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, Gaylord, et al.
US Department of Veterans Affairs, www.ptsd.va.gov

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Tropes

Combining Archetypes to generate Tropes

"A **trope** is, effectively, a widely-used but importantly widely-accepted dramatic device."

-Paul FitzSimons

Tropes

A Trope is essentially a commonly accepted “dramatic truth” and can represent a character or a common theme in the narrative.

Combine a few **Archetypes** and you likely have some recognizable character **tropes**.

For example: Lover (Husband) + Harlequin



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For example: Lover (Husband) + Harlequin

Lover (Husband) + Harlequin (Clown) = **Idiot Husband**



Lover + Harlequin
= Idiot Husband

Father Figure + Harlequin (Clown) = **Idiot Dad**



Father Figure + Harlequin
= Idiot Dad

Father Figure + Harlequin (Clown) = Idiot Dad

“...when fathers were parenting, it was **depicted as humorously foolish in just over 50% of the relevant scenes** in the 2000s and 2010s, compared with 18% in the 1980s and 31% in the 1990s...”

Erica Scharrer, Professor of Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media

<https://theconversation.com/why-are-sitcom-dads-still-so-inept-139737>

Father Figure + Harlequin
= Idiot Dad

Mentally/Socially Disabled + Harlequin (Clown) = **Autistic Clown**



Mentally/Socially Disabled + Harlequin = Autistic Clown

Warrior + Dumb Muscle = **Mindless Drone**



Warrior + Dumb Muscle
= Mindless Drone

Warrior + Psychopath = **Sociopathic Soldier**



Warrior + Psychopath
= Sociopathic Soldier

Prostitute + McCoy = Sympathetic Sinner

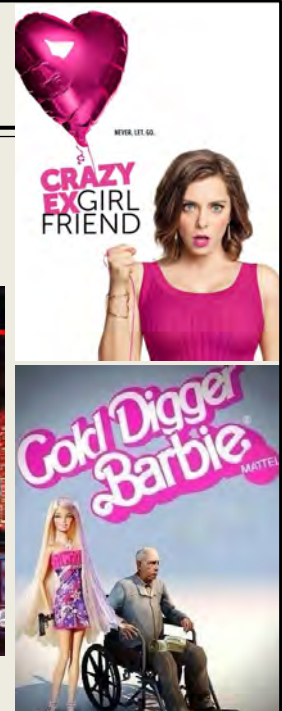
aka “Hooker with the Heart of Gold”



Prostitute + McCoy
= Sympathetic Sinner

You get the idea

- Girl Next Door + Wildly Crazy
= **Crazy Ex** [Dated once, girlfriend, wife, or ex]
- Prostitute + Grande Dame
= **The Gold Digger**
- Warrior + Rebel
= **Renegade Cop / Criminal Cop**



Girl Next Door + Wildly Crazy

= "Crazy" [Dated once, girlfriend, wife, or holder of an unknown and unrequited crush]

Prostitute + Grande Dame

= The Gold Digger

Warrior + Rebel

= Renegade Cop / Criminal Cop





TOSS OUT THE TROPES!

Toss out the tropes to avoid perpetuating *stereotypes*

<http://SuccessfulChristianSelfPublishing.com/MoreThanBW/>

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Tropes to Avoid (Male vs. Female)



Men/Boys	Women/Girls
<p>Men:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Misogyny dialogue “She’d be prettier if ____, All women, girls can’t, chicks always, little lady, Feminazi” Commitment Phobic <p>Young men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversexed, delinquent, entitled, immoral <p>Boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dirty, mean, annoying, bullyish, dumb 	<p>Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Misandry: “mansplaining, manalogue, he had a mantrum, maninterrupting, toxic masculinity, All men, boys can’t, men always, men can’t possibly understand” Desperate for commitment <p>Young women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-male, disrespectful, selfish, promiscuous <p>Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angelic, clean, sweet, smart, fair/just

BOY (N):
a silly little noisemaker
covered in dirt

GIRL (N):
a giggle wrapped in sunshine
and glitter

Tropes to Avoid (Male vs. Female)

Men/Boys

Men:

Misogyny dialogue “She’d be prettier if ____, All women, girls can’t, chicks always, little lady, Feminazi”

Commitment Phobic

Young men

Oversexed, delinquent, entitled, immoral

Boys

Dirty, mean, annoying, bullyish, dumb

Women/Girls

Women

Misandry: “mansplaining, manalogue, he had a mantrum, maninterrupting, toxic masculinity, All men, boys can’t, men always, men can’t possibly understand”

Desperate for commitment

Young women

Anti-male, disrespectful, selfish, promiscuous

Girls

Angelic, clean, sweet, smart, fair/just

Tropes to Avoid (Asian people group)

- **Yellow Peril:** an "oriental" criminal and/or political mastermind, a character originating in the xenophobic days of the late 19th century, but popular ever since.
- **Yellowface:** East Asian characters are portrayed by actors of other races while wearing make-up to give them the appearance of an East Asian person, often including epicanthic folds and queue hairstyles.
- **Asian Speekee English:** A common stereotype (covered in dialogue)
- **Interchangeable Asian Cultures:** Fortune cookies. 'Nough said.
- **Mighty Whitey, Mellow Yellow:** white male in relationship with a disadvantaged, or submissive, Asian woman.
- **Asian and nerdy:** good students, come from good families and don't have any economic problems
- **All Asians are Martial Arts Experts:** Seen a movie where he doesn't know kung fu?
- **Asian Store Owners:** Let's meet at Arnold's after school
- **Identical Looking Asians:** Queue hairstyles, peasant hats/dress, identical kimonos or other apparel

Stereotypes about Asian people were particularly common until the '60s

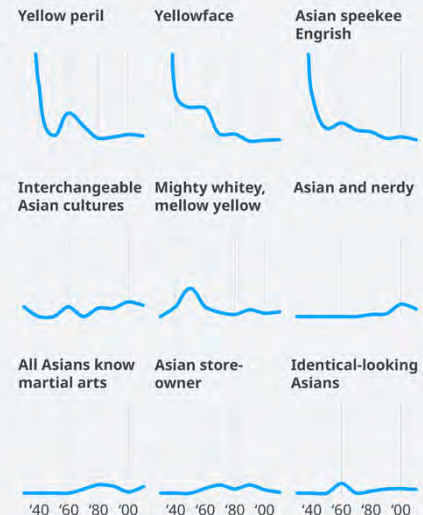


Chart shows the relative frequency of tropes over time

Source: see github.com/dw-data/movie-tropes © DW

Tropes to Avoid (Asian people group)

Yellow Peril: an "oriental" criminal and/or political mastermind, a character originating in the xenophobic days of the late 19th century, but popular ever since.

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Tropes to Avoid (Asian people group)

- The 1961 film *Breakfast at Tiffany's* features Andy Rooney in "Yellow Face" portraying the bucktoothed Mr. Yunioshi speaking Pidgeon "Engrish."
- David Carradine in the TV series *Kung Fu*
- Scarlett Johansen in the live action film *Ghost in the Shell*
- Tilda Swinton in *Doctor Strange*.



Examples:

The 1961 film *Breakfast at Tiffany's* features Andy Rooney in "Yellowface" portraying the bucktoothed Mr. Yunioshi speaking Pidgeon "Engrish."

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Tilda Swinton in *Doctor Strange*.

“[Insert Color] Face” is not restricted to Asian peoples

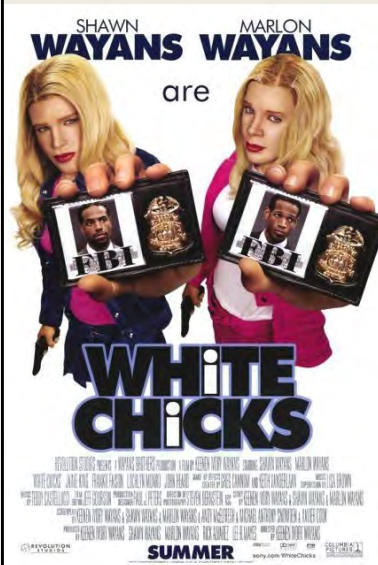


Val Kilmer is a
blond, blue-eyed
pale white dude.

He is not a Sioux
warrior.



“[Insert Color] Face” is not restricted to Asian peoples

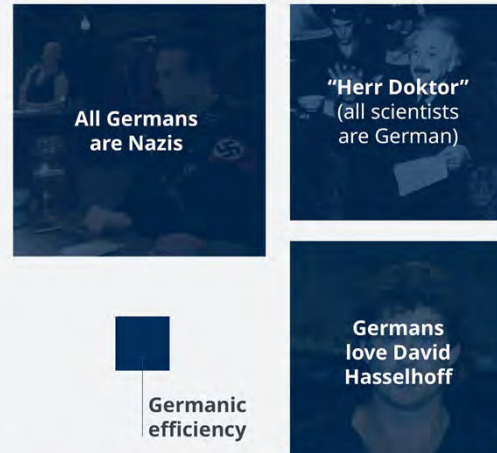


Shawn and Marlon Wayans are neither white nor chicks.

Tropes to Avoid (Germans)

- The most common stereotype about Germans in movies since 2000 is that they are all Nazis.
- Second place goes to German scientists, filed under "Herr Doctor" on TVTropes.
- All Germans' supposedly actor David Hasselhoff.
- All Germans operate with military precision and efficiency at all times.

Movie Germans are either Nazis or scientists — and they love Hasselhoff



Frequency of stereotypes in Hollywood movies since 2000

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Tropes to Avoid (United Kingdom)

- James Bond aside, British characters overwhelmingly seem to be a popular choice for villains.
- British are all arrogant, uptight, and speak with a classic posh accent.
- British are mean, especially to small animals and children (see Oliver Twist)

Movie British: Mostly evil, but also classy, uptight and mean



Frequency of stereotypes in Hollywood movies since 2000

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James Bond aside, British characters overwhelmingly seem to be a popular choice for villains.

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Tropes to Avoid (Russian)

- Russians are portrayed as "hard-fightin', heavy-drinkin', manly, boorish" characters.
- Russians lead hard lives, often in poverty.
- Most often played in films by non-Russians. In *Rocky IV*, the Swedish Dolph Lundgren started his action career as Russian boxer Ivan Drago; Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Red Heat*; and Viggo Mortensen in *Eastern Promises*

Russians in Hollywood movies are tough or scientists or dancers



Frequency of stereotypes in Hollywood movies since 2000

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Tropes to Avoid (Blacks)

- Black men are portrayed as “Hypermasculine” as in scary/angry.
- If people die in a movie, the black character is the most likely to die first.
- If a film features one black character, it's likely to be the black best friend.
- Black women are portrayed as loudmouthed/sassy.
- "Darkest Africa" movies portray the continent as a mysterious and dangerous isolated land with only limited ties to "modern" civilization.

Blackface has decreased, but black characters still die first in Hollywood

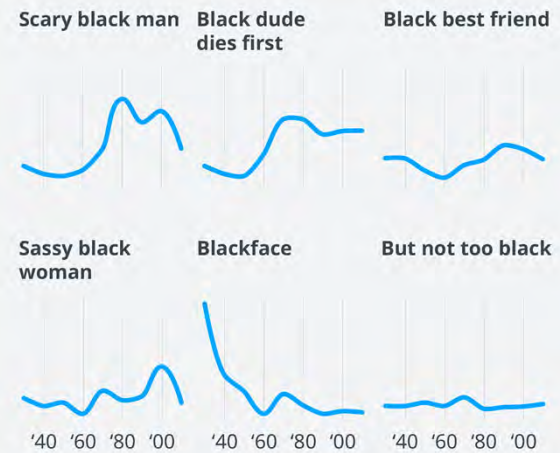


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Break the mold. Be original.
Tests to identify archetypes, tropes, and stereotypes.

The Substitution Test

The simplest test for sexist remarks is to substitute the opposite sex.

(Actual quotes taken from greeting cards in a supermarket)

Not all **men** are annoying. Some are dead.

Men have only two faults: 1) Everything they say and 2) everything they do.

Substitute the opposite sex. Does it diminish the opposite sex?

Not all **women** are annoying. Some are dead.

Women have only two faults: 1) Everything they say and 2) everything they do.

The Substitution Test

The simplest test for sexist remarks is to substitute the opposite sex.

A: What's the smartest thing a **husband** can say?

Q: "My **wife** says...."

Substitute the opposite sex. Does it diminish the opposite sex?

A: What's the smartest thing a **wife** can say?

Q: "My **husband** says...."

The Substitution Test for People Groups

The simplest test for prejudicial language is to imagine you are a member of an imaginary people group, such as **Smogarians**, then *substitute* that imaginary people group into any statement on a **specific** nonfictional people group.

Take this example from the Coca-Cola company's "Better Together" online training seminar.

White people are socialized to feel they are inherently superior because they are **white**.

White people are arrogant and defensive. Break with **white** solidarity. Be less **white**.

Substitute the fictional **Smogarian** people for **white** people. Are the remarks prejudicial toward the **Smogarian** people group?

Smogarians are socialized to feel they are inherently superior because they are **Smogarian**.

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The Bechdel Test

The Bechdel Test (sometimes called the Bechdel-Wallace Test) for on-screen female characters has been around since at least 1985. It is designed to determine whether or not on-screen female characters have fully realized lives apart from men.

The basis of the test is to examine a film or a TV episode and answer three questions:

1. Does it have at least two [named] women in it?
2. Do they talk to each other?
3. Do they talk about something besides a man, or men?

Any film or TV episode that can answer “yes” to all three questions passes the test.

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The DuVernay Test

In 2016, *New York Times* film critic Manohla Dargis developed the DuVernay Test, named for director Ava DuVernay (*Selma*, *A Wrinkle In Time*). The basis of the 5 question test is to answer the question:

Do on-screen minority characters have fully realized lives rather than serve as scenery for non-minority characters?

1. Does it have at least two [named] minority characters in it?
2. Do the minority characters portray harmful, simplistic, or common archetypes, tropes, or stereotypes?
3. Do the minority characters talk to each other, and about anything other than color?
4. Do only the minority characters die, or do they die first?
5. Do the minority characters pursue their own goals apart from the goals of any majority characters?

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"You tested positive for being negative."

I THINK I JUST TESTED POSITIVE!

What do I do when I find that my story is tropish?

I think I Just Tested Positive!

What do I do when I find that my story is tropish?

I tested positive! Now what?

It's okay. Tropes aren't always BAD!

A Trope is sort of like a marriage.

When you do it well, and make a good marriage, there's nothing better.

When you don't do it well, and make a bad marriage, there's nothing worse.

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The Very Best Advice

Write from the heart.
Be true to your story.

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I tested positive! Now what?

- **Deconstruction.** Embrace the trope and RUN with it in order to encourage discussion about that trope.

For example, in *Madame Bovary*, the titular character spends all her time reading romance novels, and bases all of her actions and decisions on them the hope that it will turn her own life into the fairytales she reads. (Spoiler Alert!: there is no Happily Ever After.)

- **Subversion.** Give readers the sense that a trope is playing out as expected, only to defy their predictions when the story unfolds in a different manner.

For example, in the film *Life As We Know It*, the heroine rushes to the airport to declare her love for the recently estranged co-parent of their adopted child, thus playing out the “Belated Love Epiphany” trope. She is stopped at every turn by Atlanta traffic, ticket agents, and TSA and returns home, sans love confession. When she walks into the house, he is there waiting for her.

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HOW DO I DESCRIBE MINORITY CHARACTERS WITHOUT OFFENSE?

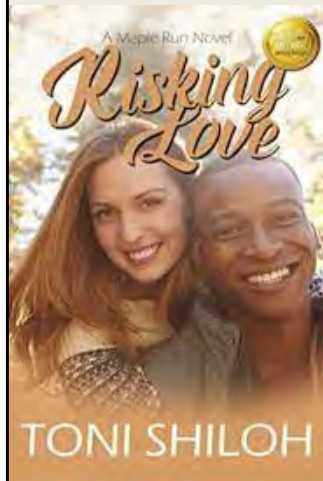
Describe minority characters without compromising the story.

Links & Resources

Web based resources, Christian books, and Secular books that deal with the nature and character of men.

How to Describe Minority Characters

- One way to describe the character is via the book cover.



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How to Describe Minority Characters

Use POINT OF VIEW

- Minority Character's POV:

Rachel never liked her straight black hair that every other Korean she knew also had. She wanted to die her hair bright pink on her eighteenth birthday.

- Main Character's or Love interest's POV:

Mark looked down at their clasped fingers, admiring the contrast of his relatively light skin and her dark skin as much as he admired the warmth of her touch.

- Villain's POV:

Boris despised everything about the man from his Asian features to his unshakable faith.

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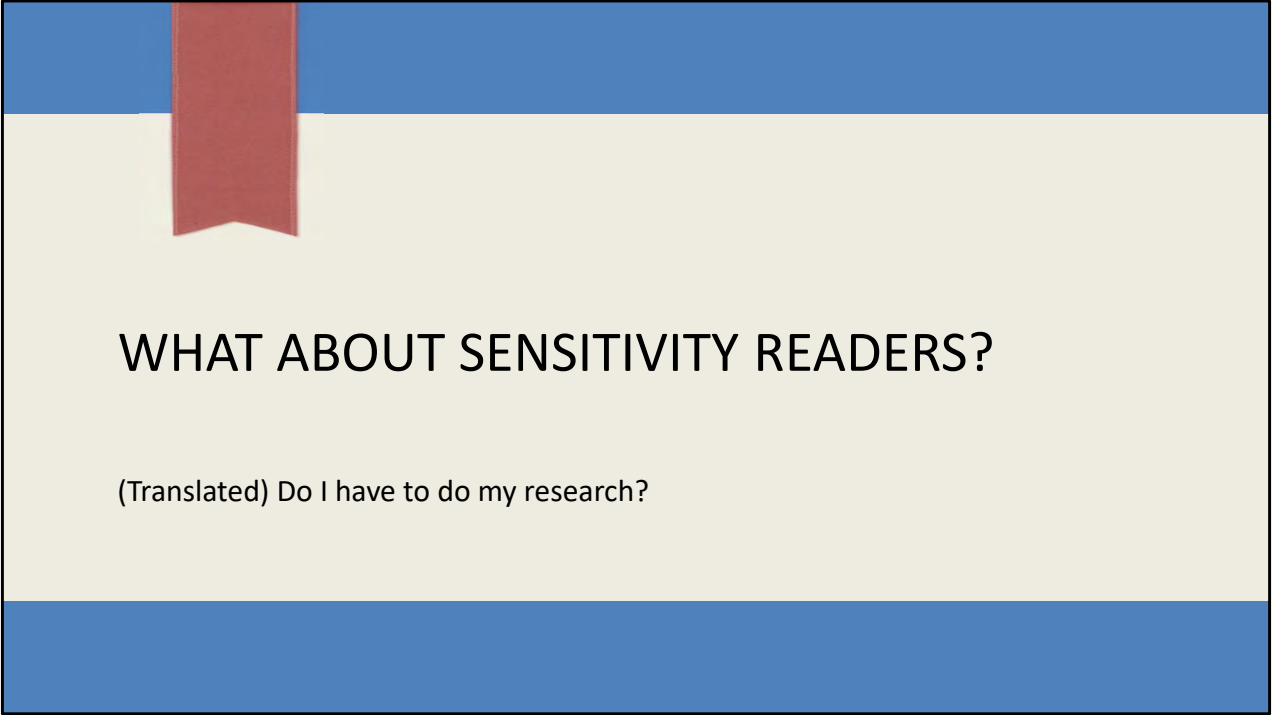
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WHAT ABOUT SENSITIVITY READERS?

(Translated) Do I have to do my research?

What about Sensitivity Readers?

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Research Readers (Sensitivity Readers)

- If you are not an expert or have no personal or practical experience with your subject matter, it makes perfect sense to have someone who is read your work for flaws.
- Are you an attorney, a veteran, a surgeon, or a member of a minority group?
- If so, then you probably don't need a research reader.
- If not, then you need to complete your research by having it validated.

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Set SMART GOALS with your Research Reader

SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely) GOALS (Godly Objectives Assure Lasting Success)

- **SPECIFIC:**
Front load your selected reader with up to 3 specific questions.
- **MEASURABLE:**
Word the questions so that responses are measurable. (T/F? Scale of 1 to 10)
- **ACHIEVABLE:**
Ensure your reader has expertise within your areas of concerns so that you achieve results.
- **REALISTIC:**
Keep the questions focused and realistic.
- **TIMELY:**
Agree upon a deadline to receive responses so they are timely.



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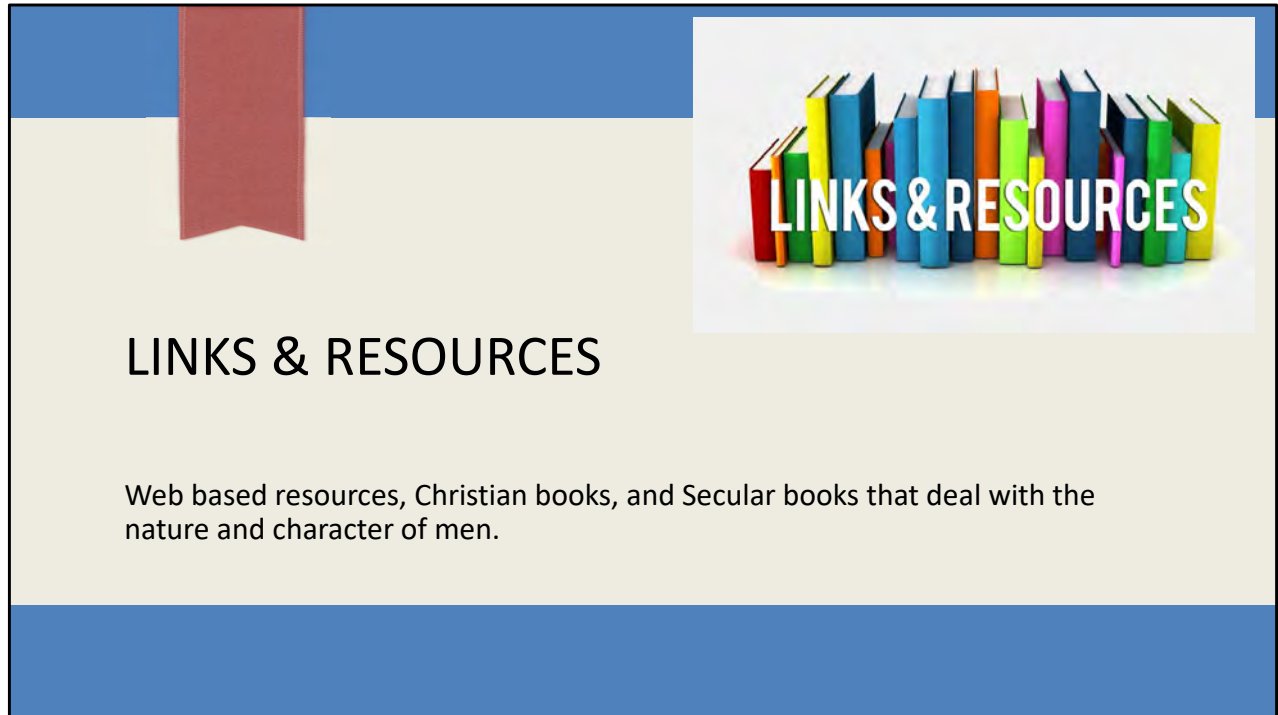
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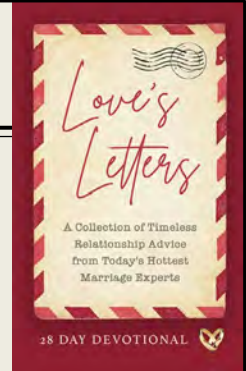
Love and Respect: The Love She Most Desires; the Respect He Desperately Needs by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

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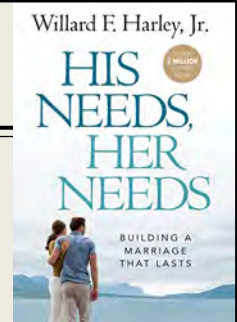
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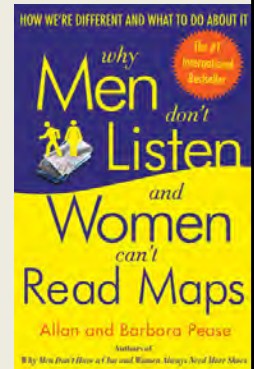
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MEN ARE MORE THAN BLACK AND WHITE

<http://SuccessfulChristianSelfPublishing.com/MoreThanBW/>

Questions?