CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE TARGET TOOL

Think of the character’s positive attributes as a target. At the heart lies morality, the building block that determines the character’s sense of right and wrong, flavoring the rest of their attributes. Achievement-focused traits aid the character in reaching professional and personal goals. Interactive attributes help with communication, encouraging meaningful connections with other people and the world. Identity attributes help with self-discovery and satisfy their need for creative and personal expression. Choosing attributes that touch on all four areas is a great start to creating a complex and relatable character.

(For a breakdown of 100 positive attributes that might make up your character’s personality along with lists of ways to show, not tell these traits through behavior, choices, and actions, check out The Positive Trait Thesaurus.)
WHAT IS A WRITERS HELPING WRITERS® DESCRIPTIVE THESAURUS?

Have you ever had a critique partner or editor suggest you need to show, not tell? Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi have, which is why the two set out to learn as much as possible about showing and telling, and how to master both. To help others, they created the Writers Helping Writers Thesaurus series, where they dive deep into an area of description and provide comprehensive lists of specific details that will help writers bring that element alive on the page.

These bestselling guides have sold over half a million copies, are available in many different languages, and are used by writers and editors all over the world. Maybe they can help you, too.

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- **The largest Description Database available to writers**, providing infinite ways to describe character emotions, motivations, personality traits, emotional wounds, physical features, talents and skills, symbolism, settings, weather, and more

- **A hyper-intelligent Character Builder** that makes it easy to explore a character’s deeper layers, helping you build a strong, fascinating story cast in half the time

- **A Character Arc Blueprint** that identifies key pieces of character information that will shape your story, giving you a map to work from as you write

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