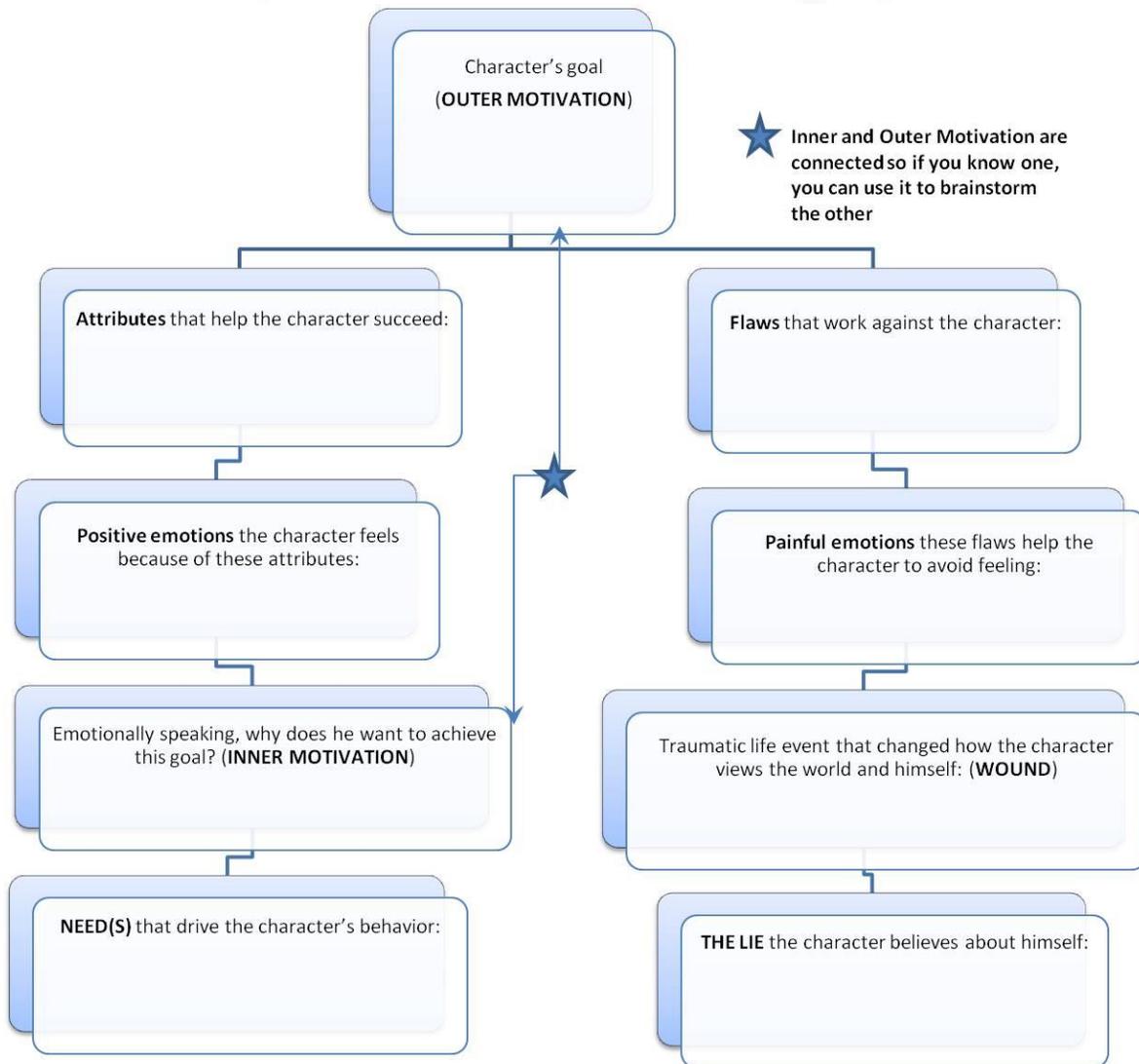


## REVERSE BACKSTORY TOOL

Writing authentic characters means understanding how a person's past affects their present. Filling in this Reverse Backstory chart for your own characters will help you see the big picture: what they want and need, what motivates them, and what their backstory might be. Planning out their wound and the lie they tell themselves will also help you choose what traits might help them succeed and which will get in the way.

Character's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

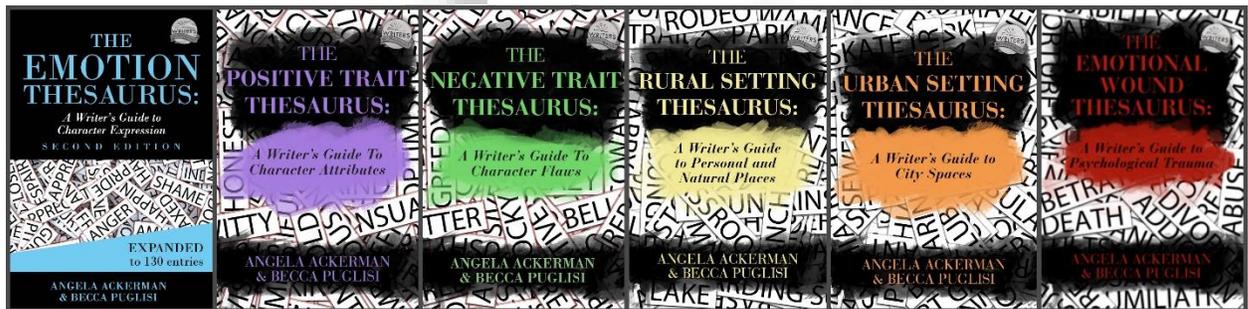


[The Negative Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Flaws](#) contains a sample breakdown of a character's backstory as well as more information on motivation, needs, fears, wounds, lies and the role these elements play within character arc.

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