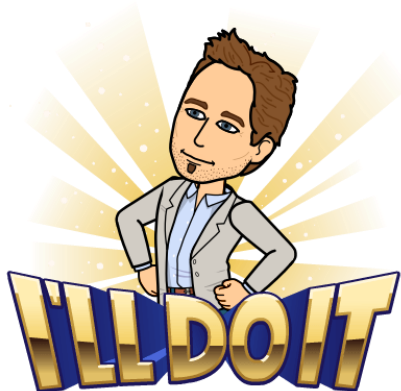# The Essentials of Epic Characters

Need #1:
Every character must be Driven

Your character has to want something that drives them forward in the story, even when they face obstacles.

Example: Katniss wants to save her sister, so she enters the Hunger Games.

Need #2
Every character must be Colorful

Every character should not be 'sort of' anything (aka sort of smart, sort of sassy, etc.) Every character will have traits that make them memorable.

Example: The Hulk is SUPER angry.

Need #3
Every character must be Empathetic

The reader needs to understand why every character acts the way they do (including the villains). Make sure the reader can understand the motives of every character.

Example: The Grinch hates Christmas so he tries to steal it from Whoville.

Need #4
Every character must be Active

Things don't just happen to our character, the story moves forward because the hero makes choices and refuses to be passive.

Example: Percy Jackson searches for the Zues' lightening bolt, battle against, Hades, monsters and more.
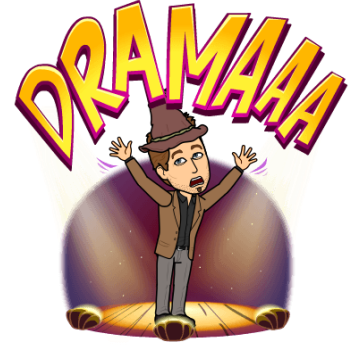
How to Design Your Character

Step #1

We give every character Exaggerated Personality Traits

Example: Tony Stark

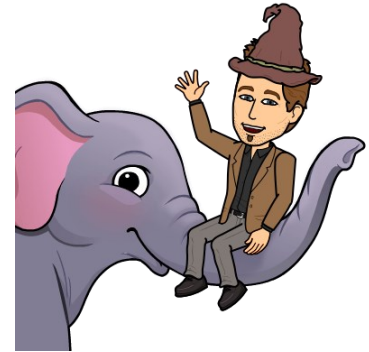Egotistical, Genius, Snarky, Savior Complex, Billionaire

Step #2

We give every character unique Physical Descriptions and Props

Example: Captain America

Fights with a shield - Red, white, and blue costume - Really buff

Step #3

We give each character a unique Story Question that forces them to overcome obstacles

Example: Katniss Everdeen

Katniss volunteers for the Hunger Games to save her sister, but will she survive against the other tributes?

Step #4

We give each character a cool Introduction, which helps the reader know about the character

Example: Rei –Star Wars

When we meet Rei, she is alone in the desert, scavenging from a broken down space ship in awesome goggles. Immediately we know she's a loner, she's adventurous, and she's fearless.

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