Sanderson's Character Sliders

How to develop engaging characters

Credit to
Brandon Sanderson

Sources:

Writing Excuses Podcast

BYU Creative Writing Lectures

Sanderson's Character Sliders

😃 **LIKABILITY** | Relatable, sympathetic, or "nice"

Low ———————————————————————— High

⭐ **COMPETENCE** | Capable or skilled

Low ———————————————————————— High

🏃 **PROACTIVITY** | Progresses the plot

Low ———————————————————————— High

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😃 ⭐ 🏃

High on one or more sliders = Engaging

😃 **LIKABILITY** | Relatable, sympathetic, or "nice"

Admirable Traits

BRAVE & LOYAL

KIND & HONEST

CLEVER & FUNNY

PASSIONATE & DETERMINED
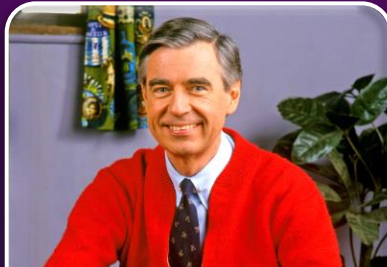
Relatable/Sympathetic

RELATABLE SITUATIONS

SYMPATHETIC MOTIVES

RELATABLE EMOTIONS

SYMPATHETIC HARDSHIPS

Liked by Others

ROMANCE

SIDEKICK

FAMILY

FRIENDS

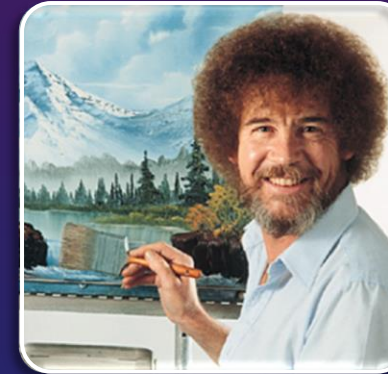# ⭐ COMPETENCE | Capable or skilled

"Ordinary"
(Sense of Grounding)

"Extraordinary"
(Sense of Wonder)

PROACTIVITY — Progresses the plot

Not in a position to progress the plot?

Small-Scale Proactivity

Set Expectation of Future Proactivity

Proactivity = *Acting on* instead of *responding to* their environment

Sanderson's Character Sliders

😃 Likeable
⭐ Competent
🏃 Proactive

Examples based on characters' states at the beginning of their stories

Character Slider Worksheet

☺ Likeable
★ Competent
🏃 Proactive

Name:
Likeable Traits:

Competences:

Proactivity:

Name:
Likeable Traits:

Competences:

Proactivity:

Name:
Likeable Traits:

Competences:

Proactivity:

Name:
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Competences:

Proactivity:

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