

## How do you get to know someone in real life?

**You pay attention to how they look, how they talk, what they do and stories about what they have done.** One key to good writing is "show, don't tell." Show us your character. Let us see him or her. Let us hear him or her speaking. Let us see him or her in action.

**Assignment:** Write a character sketch of someone who has had some special meaning in your life. Provide specific details about the person and your relationship, and explain how this person helped form you into who you are today.

Publish your character sketch on your Ning blog. Later, you will move it to your Google web site, and at that time you should make a link to the quotation that you've chosen from your novel which shows the relationship between two characters. If possible, include a photograph (recent or historical).

### Gathering thoughts for a character sketch

Respond to the following prompts, allowing several minutes for writing answers to each question, to begin gathering details and ideas for their character sketches:

1. Think about the person you want to write about--why is this person important to you? why do you want to tell someone else about him or her?
2. Now that you have a particular person in mind, focus on giving your readers a strong image of the person. First, what do you see when you look at the person? How does the person dress? Describe the person's gestures or facial expressions.
3. Next, talk about how the person talks. What topics does the person talk about? What kind of words does the person use? What makes you recognize this person's voice?
4. What values are important to this person? What does the person care most about, and how can you tell?
5. Think of a specific time you were with this person. Briefly tell the story of your time together--just get your ideas down. You can expand on them later.
6. What kind of emotional reaction do you want your reader to have to this person? How do you want your reader to feel after reading about him or her?

### Character Sketch Outline:

Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Trait #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Example(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Trait #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Example(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Trait #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Example(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Concluding Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_