

Persona Poems

Good stories are all about great characters. Here's a fun writing task to find out how well you know yours. Pick a character from your current manuscript and write a persona poem. To those of you who never did this in eighth-grade English, persona poems are structured 8-line poems that are biographical in nature. They follow the format below:

Line 1: first name/nickname of the person in the poem

Line 2: 4 adjectives which describe the person

Line 3: X of Y formula, describing an important relationship to the person

Line 4: 3 things s/he loves

Line 5: 3 things that scare her/him

Line 6: 3 things s/he wants to see

Line 7: resident of...+ place/time/concept

Line 8: last name of the person in the poem

Young Adult sample from my May, 2012 debut, *WELCOME, CALLER, THIS IS CHLOE*:

Chloe

Outgoing, sharp-witted, big-hearted, dramatic

Queen of late night radio

Who loves the spotlight, Twizzlers, vintage shoes

Who fears blood, Brie Sonderby's lies, being alone

Who wants to see adoring radio fans, her grandmother safe, Duncan's smile

Resident of a lonely junior year of high school

Camden

Romantic Suspense sample from my 2009 Golden Heart finalist and Daphne Du Maurier Winner, *THE BROKEN*

Kate

Ambitious, on-the-run, scarred, self-loathing

Target of a serial killer

Who loves the dark, motorcycle rides, old movies

Who fears public places, mirrors, relationships

Who wants to see the serial killer jailed, the road whirring beneath her feet, happily ever after

Resident of Smokey Joe's spare bedroom

Johnson