

Character Persona Poems

Good stories are all about great characters. Author Shelley Coriell offers this fun, fast exercise to find out how well you know yours. Pick a character from your current manuscript and write a character persona poem, a structured eight-line poem that is biographical in nature. www.shelleycoriell.com.

The Steps

Line 1: first name/nickname of the person

Line 2: 4 adjectives that 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 s/he fears

Line 6: 3 things s/he wants to see

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

Line 8: last name of the person

YA Example*

Rebel

Individualistic, artistic, snarky, honest

Free-spirited daughter of an adventurous mother

Loves art, going barefoot, "freedom to be me"

Fears being ordinary, giving her heart to Nate, being disloyal to her mom

Wants to see art school, the world on the back of a scooter, family (unrealized)

A barefoot girl in a world that wears shoes

Blue

*** From the main character in Shelley Coriell's Oct., 2013 young adult release, *GOODBYE, REBEL BLUE*, from Amulet Books/Abrams**

Romantic Suspense Example**

Kate

Ambitious, fiery, on-the-run, scarred

Target of a serial killer

Loves the dark, motorcycle rides, old movies

Fears public places, mirrors, relationships

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

Resident of Smokey Joe's spare bedroom

Johnson

**** From the main character in Shelley Coriell's Daphne Du Maurier Winner, *THE BROKEN*, Published April 29, 2014 from Grand Central Forever**