Character Design for Animation & Game

The aim is to develop a game. Every game has its story and its character.

Plan your game or animation by this game design document for character design. The story will be developed later, but it shall be in our mind already. Some first questions have to be answered.

This document is important for the communication between the ideators and the designers as well as the game developers.

Get your character by answering those questions first. Doodle and sketch details. Think always of iterations. It will be a rolling process.

You need at last three characters: a protagonist and a second character to talk to. And another character for the drive of the story.

This is an ideation sheet. So doodle as much as you can.

Select the Name accordingly

Select wisely! The name is the first thing the reader knows about your character. The name is a kind of the characters identity.

The name of your character will be the most often used word in your story!

Take care of prejudices. The name Kevin triggers a story - and this is not your story.

- Take a short name, easy to remember.
- Take two syllable names like Niki or Thomas.
- Take abbreviations like H.K.
- Take easy reading and multi language Fantasy names like Jekan.
- Add a number like Jekan02
- Think about the connotation *doubting Thomas* from the bible.

Feel the sound of the name.
Type the letters in a layout program.

Select the name according to the story.

Name: _____

Character Styling

Sketch it here!

Think about the first impression: What is the most important thing everybody must see? Close your eyes and sketch the first ideas. Afterwards sketch the surrounding, the location, the landscape ...

How looks the characters flat, house, garage or office?

What does he do there?

Geo-locate the character:

Hair and eyes:

Face:

Clothes:

Accessories:

Structure / anatomy:

Special appearance / injuries:

Write down five locations and what he / she does there.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Backstory and the Wound

Sketch it here!

Where does your character come from?

_____

_____

_____

Note the important facts from the history:

_____

_____

_____

What is the characters profession?

_____

_____

_____

How does the character feel of relationship, love and sex?

_____

_____

_____

What is exceptional in his character?

_____

_____

_____

What stories from the past are important to him?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Sketch it here!

Attitude - Disposition

What are the wishes of the character?

_____

_____

_____

What are the characters preferences or dislikes?

_____

_____

_____

What does the character like / dislike to eat, in spare-time, ...

_____

_____

_____

Has the character a taboo?

_____

_____

_____

What are the characters ethical beliefs?

_____

_____

_____

What are the characters aims?

_____

_____

_____

What for does the character live?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Accessories

Give your character one special thing only he has, something that is outside of the box and you can depict. It can even be a different movement like limping or going lame.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Power and Potentials

Sketch it here!

What is the characters anatomy?

_____

_____

_____

What are the characters skills?

_____

_____

_____

What are the characters superpowers?

_____

_____

_____

What are the characters health and diseases?

_____

_____

_____

What are the characters super-tricks ?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Intellectual Skills

Sketch it here!

What is the character good at?

_____

_____

_____

_____

In what discipline is the character a absolute master?

_____

_____

_____

What about the characters creativity?

_____

_____

What is the characters stumbling block?

_____

_____

What is about is the characters willpower?

_____

_____

How can someone influence the character?

_____

_____

What is the characters education?

_____

_____

Sketch it here!

Social

What is the characters profession?

_____

_____

In what is the character a good layperson?

_____

_____

What is the characters wealth?

_____

_____

_____

What is the characters position in society?

_____

_____

_____

Who is the characters friend or enemy?

_____

_____

_____

What about self-awareness and being self-confident?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Sketch it here!

Write your Sentence here

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Now you are ready to sketch and draw your character from this collected information.

Some hints on what makes a good sentence:

Shorter is better. Try for fewer than 15 words.
No character names. Just say "n injured child" than "Mike".
Tie together the big picture and the personal picture. Which character has the most to lose in this story? Now tell me what he or she wants to win.
Look how others do! New York times Bestseller List [1]

1   The Snowflake Method For Designing A Novel http: / / www.advancedfictionwriting.com / articles / snowflake-method /

Skertch&Draw is a method to learn sketching
www.sketchanddraw.com

tanja.hess@fhgr.ch
Chur, Zurich, 2021
creative commons cc nc bn sa

!mpetus

POLITECHNIKA
GDAŃSKA

Hanzehogeschool
Groningen
University of Applied Sciences

UNIVERSITÄT
KLAGENFURT

HOGESCHOOL
ROTTERDAM

1 2 9 0
UNIVERSIDADE Ð
COIMBRA

FH
GR Fachhochschule Graubünden
University of Applied Sciences