

close your eyes, and imagine the answers. You may choose to use some of the information provided by the playwright. Or you can do the monologue out of context and create a new history for the character. If you choose to do this, be careful. Some monologues are very generic and will work for many different types of actors. Others are too specific to be done out of context. For example, if you are a real New York type, don't do a monologue from *Of Mice and Men*, which is specifically written about characters on a ranch. If you try to change its setting to New York, the writing won't support that choice, and you run the risk of confusing the auditors.

Character History Questions

1. Where are you from?
2. What is your occupation?
3. What is your economic status?
4. What is your religion?
5. What are your politics?
6. What is your sexual orientation?
7. What is your education level?
8. What is your IQ?
9. What is your immediate goal?
10. What are your long-range goals?
11. Do you drink or smoke?
12. Do you have any hobbies?
13. What are your prejudices, if any?
14. Do you have any bad habits?
15. What is your favorite food, drink, movie, TV show?
16. What is the nicest thing you ever did?
17. What is the meanest thing you ever did?
18. What are you most afraid of?
19. Describe the happiest day of your life.

20. Describe the saddest day of your life.
21. Did you get along with you parents/siblings?
22. As a child, who were you closest to in your family?
23. Who are you close to now?
24. When you enter a room, do you take center stage or fade into the woodwork?
25. How do you dress?
26. What is your body like?
27. What is the leading center of energy in your body?
28. What do you think of Marx, Warhol, Brad Pitt, Shakespeare, Gloria Steinem, Tennessee Williams, Barack Obama, Jane Austen?
29. What is the best present you ever received?
30. Are you a day or night person?
31. Who do you look up to?
32. Who do you hate?
33. Are you an indoor or an outdoor person?
34. Do you drive? If so, what kind of car?
35. Describe your friends.
36. What do you do for fun?
37. Describe your living space.
38. What kind of perfume do you wear, if any?
39. Do you have any physical problems—illnesses, ailments?
40. Describe yourself in a word or phrase (for example, martyr, bully).
41. Are you musical?
42. What kind of music do you like?
43. What sports do you like or do, if any?
44. Do you have any secrets?

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45. Do you like to dance? What kind of dancing do you like?
46. What are your most positive and negative traits?
47. Do you have any children? How do you feel about children?
48. Do you have any pets?
49. What is your favorite animal?
50. If you were an animal, which one would you be?
51. Describe your sexual history.
52. How do you treat people who have more or less power than you do?
53. Are you successful?
54. Describe your attitude towards life in a sentence, for example, "Life is a struggle," or "Life is just a bowl of cherries."
55. What newspaper do you read?
56. How do you wear your hair?
57. What's your favorite flower?
58. What are your superstitions?
59. Are you interested in the occult?
60. Do you have any addictions?
61. What are the major events in your life that have made you the person you are today (for example, the death of a parent, molestation, loss of money)?
62. What historical figure would you like to meet?
63. What possession would you save in a fire?
64. What does your character think of you?
65. Did you do well in school?
66. What do you think of designer clothes, pornography, racism, the arts, technological age, death, crime, money?
67. Have you had a hard or easy life?
68. Are you sophisticated?
69. Describe your sense of humor (for example, sarcastic, wry).