
CHARACTER SEXUALITY WORKSHEET

Defining a character's sexual orientation without defaulting to stereotypes can be difficult. This worksheet is designed to help you understand your character's sexual orientation, how they see themselves and relate to the world around them. As you answer each question think about how you could work it into your narrative in ways involving sensory detail, action and emotion. This way you will be showing your reader how your character feels without telling them.

Step One

In step one you will answer a series of questions about your character, these questions are designed to help you think about your character's personality and how their orientation is expressed through it.

- What are your character's thoughts on sex, sexuality and gender?
 - How has society and their upbringing shaped their views?
 - Do their personal views differ from societal views or their family? Why or why not?
- How does race, physical ability and/or mental health intersect with your character's orientation?
- How important to them is their stance on sex, sexuality and gender?
 - Are they willing to stand up for their views? Why or why not?
- Do they choose friends based on their sex, sexuality and/or gender?
 - Do they prefer being around people with their same orientation? Why or why not?
- When did your character first realize they were something other than heterosexual?
 - Was it preceded by an event or a gradual understanding?
- How did this realization affect them and those around them?
 - Do they try to deny their feelings? If so, how do they cope?
- Did they start to dress or act differently once they felt comfortable with their orientation? Why or why not?
- Did they decide to come out to their friends and family? Why or why not?
- What genders (if any) are they attracted to?
 - What kind of attraction is it: sexual, romantic, sensual, aesthetic or platonic?
- What level of intimacy is your character comfortable with?

- Do they need high levels of non-sexual intimacy or an emotional connection before being attracted to a person?
- Do they enjoy hugging, kissing and cuddling but nothing more intimate?
- Do they enjoy having romantic or sexual attraction to someone but have no desire to see it reciprocated?
- Do they enjoy sex and actively seek it out, or is it something they are ambivalent about or even find off-putting or repulsive?

Step Two

All sexual orientations, including heterosexual, have various stereotypes, some more harmful than others. As with avoiding having your character's personality being stereotypical there are a few things to consider when writing someone of a different orientation. Most of these questions are not for your character, but for you. If you want to write an authentic character you will need to set aside any assumptions you might have about their sexuality.

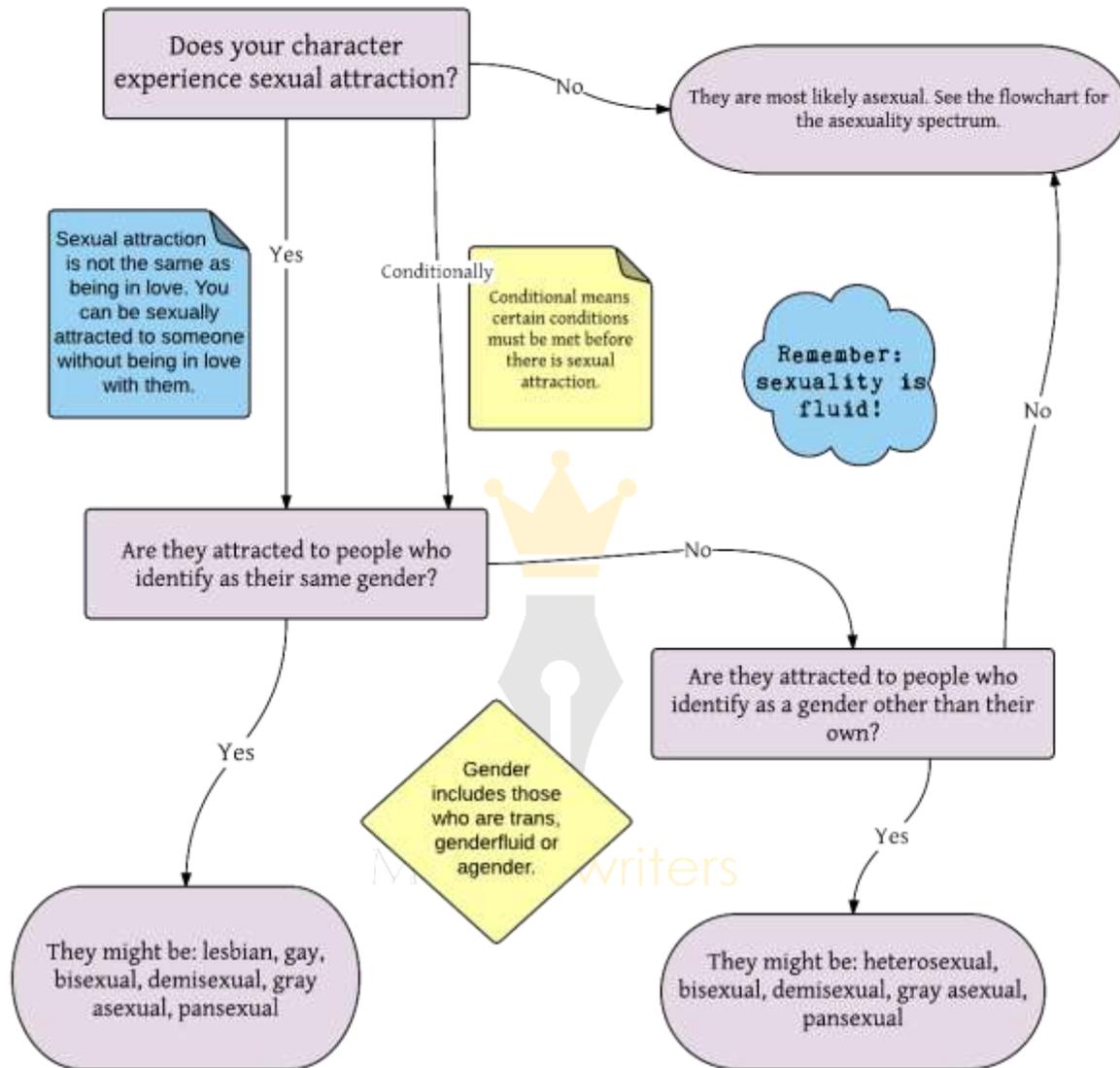
- Do you personally identify as the same sexuality as your character?
 - If so how does your experience differ from others with your same orientation?
 - Has race, physical ability or mental health had an impact on your identity?
- If you do not identify as the same orientation as your character do you have access to people who are or have you researched the orientation from a valid source*?
- What assumptions do you have about this orientation?
 - Are they valid? Why or why not?
- Does this character play a major role or are they simply part of the cast to fill a perceived quota?
- Does this character's plot arc end well? Why or why not? If not, is their orientation the reason why they cannot be happy?

Step Three

The last step is about identifying where on the spectrum your character falls. While many disagree about the use of labels, they can help those searching for people with similar experiences. Just like a book's genre, labels can help someone determine where they feel most comfortable.

The following flowcharts are not a comprehensive listing of types of orientations and are only provided to give you a starting point for your research. Many of these terms might be new to you and sometimes even within the community the definition varies. The terms used are ones most commonly used in the community. You can find more information and definitions at [MOGAI Writers](http://MOGAIWriters.com).

Character Sexuality Flowchart



Terminology varies widely in the community. For the sake of simplicity, the most common terms have been used here.

