

Passive Character Checklist

THE
SCRIPT
READER

In screenwriting, passive characters react rather than drive the plot. They often don't have clear objectives or the ability to take charge, making them less engaging to watch. In contrast, active characters, with goals and actions, captivate audiences by creating conflict and change.

Here's a quick checklist to help you identify if your protagonist may be too passive:

<input type="checkbox"/>	GOAL SETTING: DOES YOUR PROTAGONIST HAVE A CLEAR AND CONCRETE GOAL THEY ARE ACTIVELY TRYING TO ACHIEVE?
<input type="checkbox"/>	DECISION MAKING: IS YOUR PROTAGONIST MAKING SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS THAT IMPACT THE PLOT?
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONFLICT ENGAGEMENT: DOES YOUR PROTAGONIST ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN CONFLICTS OR DO THEY TEND TO AVOID THEM?
<input type="checkbox"/>	REACTIONS VS. ACTIONS: DOES YOUR PROTAGONIST SPEND MORE TIME REACTING TO EVENTS AND OTHER CHARACTERS OR DO THEY INITIATE ACTIONS THAT DRIVE THE PLOT FORWARD?
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHANGE INITIATOR: IS YOUR PROTAGONIST CAUSING CHANGES IN OTHER CHARACTERS OR THE PLOT OR ARE THEY ONLY CHANGING IN RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL FORCES?
<input type="checkbox"/>	MOTIVATION: DOES YOUR PROTAGONIST HAVE CLEAR MOTIVATIONS THAT INFLUENCE THEIR ACTIONS?
<input type="checkbox"/>	INITIATIVE: DOES YOUR PROTAGONIST COME UP WITH THEIR OWN IDEAS AND PLANS, OR ARE THEY MOSTLY FOLLOWING ALONG WITH OTHERS?

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