

# 99 Questions to Ask Your Character

By D.W. Gregory

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**NOTE:** If you get stuck or you think something doesn't apply, go on to the next question.

## **CHARACTER DEMOGRAPHICS AND FAMILY**

1. What is your name?
2. How old are you?
3. Where were you born?
4. What did your father and mother do for a living?
5. Were you well off? Middle class? Impoverished?
6. Do you have siblings? If so, what are their names and ages?
7. Where do you fall in the birth order? The oldest, youngest?
8. Which one of you is your mother's favorite?
9. Why?
10. How did you feel about that?

## **CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION**

11. When you were a child, what was one thing you could always be sure of?
12. What was something you were never sure of?
13. Where did you grow up? Is this a place you'd go back to now? Or avoid?
14. Do you still have friends there? Or family?
15. How did you do in school?
16. What was your favorite subject?
17. What was your greatest talent?
18. What did you do badly?

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19. If you did not do well in school, why not? Were you not interested, or did something interfere with your ability to work hard?
20. How far did you advance in your education?
21. If you went to college, where did you go? If you didn't go, what were you doing in those years?
22. If you went to college, what kind of school was it?
23. How did you pay for it?
24. What was your course of study?
25. Is that what you wanted to do or did someone influence you to follow that course?
26. How do you feel about those years now? Do you look back with pride or regret?

## **CURRENT HOUSEHOLD AND RELATIONSHIPS**

27. What is your life like at the moment?
28. Are you married, single, or in a relationship?
29. What is that person's name and occupation?
30. How are things going with him or her?
31. Where do you live now?
32. What are your physical surroundings like? Are they comfortable, safe, or dangerous?
33. How do you feel about the place where you are now? Is there something you are particularly attached to or particularly repelled by in this place?
34. Who lives with you?
35. How do you get along with them? If you don't get along, what is the source of conflict?
36. Do you have children?
37. If so, do you have a good relationship with them?
38. If not, what caused the rift?
39. How do they feel about you?
40. When is the last time you saw them?

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41. What about the rest of your family? Are you close to them now or distant?

42. If you are distant, why? What has gotten in the way?

## OCCUPATION

43. What do you do for a living? Are you self-employed, or do you work for someone else?

44. How long have you done this job?

45. Is this what you always planned to do, or did you fall into it?

46. How do you feel about it?

47. Would you rather be doing something else? If so, what would it be?

48. If you'd rather be doing something else, what stops you? Is it money? Is it pressure from your family? Is it your own lack of self-confidence? Or does some other thing prevent you from doing what you want to do?

49. What would you have to change in your life in order to do that thing you'd rather do?

50. Does this change depend on someone else, or does it depend on you?

## RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

51. What is your religious belief currently?

52. Do you still practice the religion of your youth, or have you left it behind?

53. If you left it behind, what caused you to do so?

54. Do you think you have the answers or are you still searching?

55. If you are searching, where or how are you looking?

## OTHER PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

56. How do you deal with stress?

57. If you use drugs or alcohol, how do you feel about it? Do you brag about it? Try to hide it? Try to give it up and fail? Have no problem with it?

58. What do you do to entertain yourself?

59. What is your idea of a really fun time?

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60. What do you consider to be your most admirable personal quality?
61. What is your greatest personal failing, in your view?
62. Do you think others see it that way, or would they say something different about your strengths and weaknesses?
63. How do you handle conflict with someone else? Do you avoid fights or are you aggressive? Or are you passive aggressive and only give the appearance of cooperation?
64. What are your politics? Are you conservative, liberal, or something else? Do you have no interest in politics?

## LOVE LIFE

65. What is your sexual orientation? Are you comfortable with it?
66. If you are not comfortable with it, why not?
67. What do you do about those negative feelings?
68. Do you have love in your life right now?
69. Is there someone you once loved but no longer do?
70. If so, what happened to make that love go away?
71. What kind of problems do you face because of it?

## PARENTAL BONDS

72. Are your parents still living?
73. If so, where are they now? Nearby or far away?
74. How often do you see them?
75. Do you want to see more of them or less?
76. If you want to see more of them, or less, why don't you?
77. If your parents are critical of you, what choices have you made that displeased them? Was it your job, education, marriage, life partner, or political views?
78. Did their displeasure influence your decision? Did you decide to go ahead in order to show them up? Or did you change your mind because they disliked your choice?

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79. If you changed your mind in order to please your parents, how do you feel about that now?
80. How did they raise you as a child? Were they strict or lenient? Did they pay attention to you, or were they more interested in other things?
81. How did this affect your relationship with them then?
82. How does it affect your relationship now?
83. Does it affect your relationship with your own children?
84. If one or more of your parents are deceased, when did they die?
85. How did their death affect you? Did it change your life fortune? Were you forced to leave school? To give up a job? To abandon a plan? Or did you come into an inheritance?

## **FEARS, CHALLENGES, AND OBSTACLES**

86. Where are you in your life right now? What are you most pleased with right now?
87. What keeps you awake at night?
88. What is the most pressing problem you have at the moment?
89. Is there something that you need or want that you don't have? For yourself or for someone important to you?
90. Why don't you have it? What is in the way?
91. What do you have to do in order to get the thing you need?
92. What is stopping you from taking this step?
93. Is there something else that must happen first in order for you to take this step?
94. Is there someone else who needs or wants the same thing?
95. Can they help you get it?
96. Are they one of the things in the way?
97. What happens if you don't get it? What do you stand to lose?
98. How will your life change if you do get this thing or solve this problem?
99. Will someone else suffer if you succeed?

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