Exercises on Character:

1) What does your character WANT? (One word, or a VERY short phrase. Nothing complicated. What does your character want IN THIS STORY?)

What are his/her motives for wanting this?

Where in the story is it made clear to the reader?

HOW is this information made clear to the reader? (Dialog? Actions? Interior thinking?)

What or who stands in the way of the character achieving this?

What does that desire set in motion?
2) Name 10 things that your character carrying in his or her pockets/bag/backpack.
   1.
   2.
   3.
   4.
   5.
   6.
   7.
   8.
   9.
   10.

3) What is your character wearing? (describe outfit in full)

4) Finish this sentence:
   (name of character) is the kind of person who

   ___________________________________________________________
NOW: change one of the following:

Age
Gender
Race/ethnicity
Nationality
What do you know about your character?

Name
Nickname
Sex
Age
Looks
Education
Vocation/occupation
Status and money
Marital status
Family/ethnicity
Diction/accent
Relationships
Places (home, office, car)
Possessions
Recreation/hobbies
Obsessions
Beliefs
Politics
Sexual history
Ambition
Religion
Superstitions
Fears
Attitudes
Character flaws
Pets
Favorite books/music/movies
Journal entries
Correspondence
Food preferences
Astrological sign
Talents
(other—anything else you can think of)