

Name _____

Backstory Creation Answer Key

Answers will vary, but all correct responses should include:

- A **specific past event** that explains the character's current belief or fear.
- A clear connection between the event and the character's present behavior.
- Evidence of cause and effect: what happened then and what the character believes or fears now.

Example of an acceptable structure: A childhood event that involved something tall, a fall or frightening moment, and an explanation showing how it led to the character's fear of climbing.

Teacher's Guide

- Explain that a **backstory** helps readers understand why characters think, fear, or believe certain things.
- Encourage students to brainstorm a list of important childhood moments that could shape a character's worldview.
- For differentiation, provide sentence starters such as "When the character was younger..." or "This moment changed them because...".
- For extension, have students create two characters shaped by different backstory events or write a short narrative using the backstory they created as the opening scene.