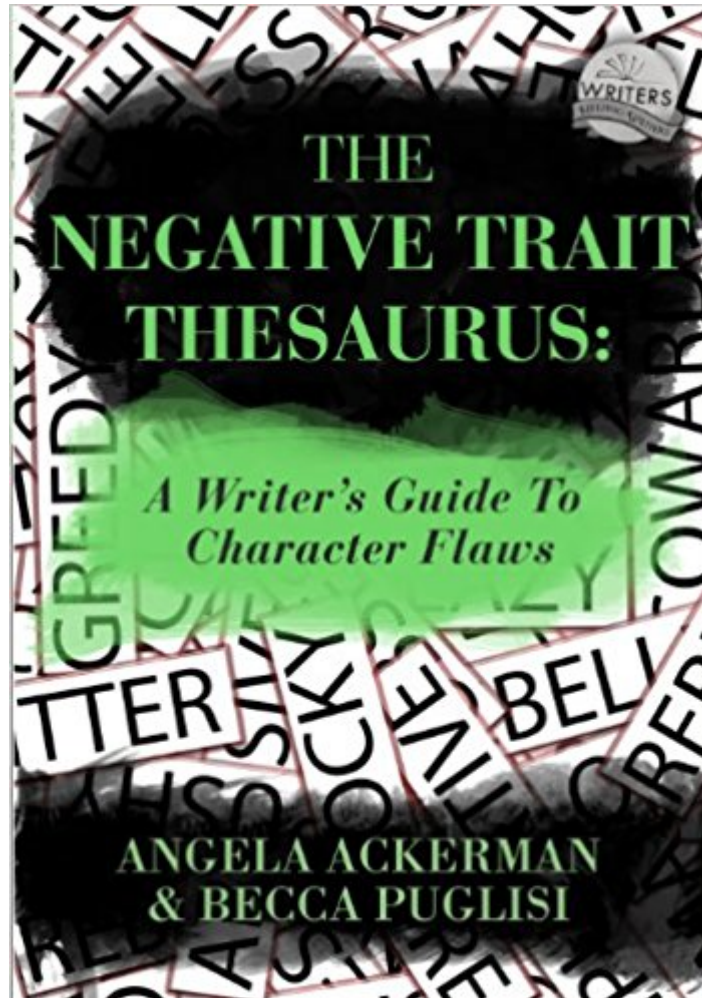


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# The Negative Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide To Character Flaws



## Synopsis

Crafting likable, interesting characters is a balancing act, and finding that perfect mix of strengths and weaknesses can be difficult. But the task has become easier thanks to *The Negative Trait Thesaurus*. Through its flaw-centric exploration of character arc, motivation, emotional wounds, and basic needs, writers will learn which flaws make the most sense for their heroes, villains, and other members of the story's cast. Inside *The Negative Trait Thesaurus* you'll find:

- \* A vast collection of flaws to explore when building a character's personality. Each entry includes possible causes, attitudes, behaviors, thoughts, and related emotions
- \* Real examples from literature, film, or television to show how each flaw can create life challenges and relational friction
- \* Advice on building layered and memorable characters from the ground up
- \* An in-depth look at backstory, emotional wounds, and how pain warps a character's view of himself and his world, influencing behavior and decision making
- \* A flaw-centric exploration of character arc, relationships, motivation, and basic needs
- \* Tips on how to best show a character's flaws to readers while avoiding common pitfalls
- \* Downloadable tools to aid writers in character creation

Written in list format and fully indexed, this brainstorming resource is perfect for creating deep, flawed characters that readers will relate to. *The Negative Trait Thesaurus* sheds light on your character's dark side.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In these brilliantly conceived, superbly organized and astonishingly thorough volumes, Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi have created an invaluable resource for writers and storytellers.

Whether you are searching for new and unique ways to add and define characters, or brainstorming methods for revealing those characters without resorting to clichés, it is hard to imagine two more powerful tools for adding depth and dimension to your screenplays, novels or plays."~ Michael Hauge, Hollywood Script Consultant and Story Expert, author of *Writing Screenplays That Sell*

Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi are bestselling authors, writing coaches, and international speakers. Their books are available in five languages, are sourced by US universities, and are used by novelists, screenwriters, editors, and psychologists around the world. Angela and Becca also co-founded their popular *Writers Helping Writers* site, a hub where authors can hone their craft, as well as *One Stop For Writers*, an innovative online library built to help writers elevate their storytelling.

Before I bought this book, I thought it would be just a list of negative traits with a little bit of information defining those traits. It is actually a guide to figuring out character, especially based on flaws and negative traits. When you finally get to the negative traits, each one has a definition, a section listing similar flaws, some possible causes, and associated behaviors and attitudes, associated thoughts and emotions, positive and negative aspects, examples, and a section about overcoming this flaw. I bought this book because I was trying to narrow down what was motivating my character and this book has given me so much more than just the simple list of words and definitions that I thought it would be.

5 stars, a wonderful useful resource for any writer in the process of building and understanding their fictional and otherwise characters. I am compelled to check out their other compilations of emotions and motivations of my fictional and otherwise characters.

Do you know that you must give your characters flaws but can't think of anything fresh that will fit with your story? Every time I write, I'm in that same boat. The *Negative Trait Thesaurus* is my go-to resource for issues with characters in my character-driven novels. As I scour the pages for the perfect flaw, I end up walking away with so many ideas for future books and really interesting flaws I want read about for fun. Before you get to all the amazing flaws, the thesaurus is prefaced with helpful sections on roles of flaws within character arc; roles of flaws within a relationship; building your characters; villains; how to show flaws and the difficulties you can run into when crafting flawed characters. The *Negative Trait Thesaurus*, along with its companion, *The Positive Trait Thesaurus*

should be kept at hand throughout the process of writing of your first or your fiftieth novel, and every one in between.

The Åber-talented authors of The Emotion Thesaurus have published yet another can't-do-without guide for fiction writers. Well-rounded characters need flaws. Developing these flaws, and helping our characters reach their goals in spite of them, is part of the fun of storytelling. The Negative Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Flaws, by Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi, is the ideal resource to help you craft those deliciously flawed characters. Is your protagonist vindictive? Timid? A hopeless worrywart? This handy thesaurus surveys these and over 100 more flaws in detail. This thesaurus and its companion guide, The Positive Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Attributes, have been instrumental in helping me rebuild my novel. Through the guidance they provide, I've discovered how embarrassingly little I knew about my characters. The Thesaurus authors also maintain an award-winning website, Writers Helping Writers. It's a goldmine of tools for writers that I've bookmarked and refer to often. How are your fictional characters doing? Could they benefit from The Negative Trait Thesaurus?

If you can live (write, same thing) without this and the other references by these 2 ladies - you're a better man than I am Gunga Din. There's more to the books than lists: they give advice and suggestions on creating your bad guy (like he can't be ALL bad) that was an easy read and enormously helpful to me. And if their books weren't enough, there's more on their website.

The writing dynamic discussed in my book, The Moral Premise, require a mechanism with polar opposite values. Positive and Negative Traits are close cousins to values. In fact, Angela and Becca explain that the traits they index and detail in their thesaurus can be used four ways: (a) interactive, or action, (b) identity, essence, (c) achievement-based, or goal, and (d) moral attribute, or motivation. It is this last use that perfectly dovetails with The Moral Premise statement. Use their Positive Trait Thesaurus with their Negative Trait Thesaurus to write your Moral Premise statement. The Kindle version's index e-links to exhaustive describe page for each trait. These are great resources for writing, too, after the MP is figured out, because of the myriad examples the authors provide for the trait's cause, how they suggest character behavior, character thoughts, and at the end of each descriptive page a list of opposing traits that cause conflict...potential polar opposite values. These two books are the perfect working companion to The Moral Premise astute writer.

This is a really good writing aid. As a screen writer, one of the biggest challenges is telling the story with realistic dialog. The best way to achieve meaningful dialog is to create characters who are multi-dimensional. Characters who are deeper than the page they are written on. This book spells out how to give characters traits and flaws that create emotions needed to drive a story. The book also helps to understand which flaws and traits work well with and against each other. Though the author says the book is a stand alone resource, I have already ordered the "Positive Trait Thesaurus." I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to know how to create meaning characters for their stories.

This is such a thorough thesaurus of character traits, attitudes and behaviors. If you struggle even a little bit with character development this book is the holy grail. It profiles a negative trait (like saying being obnoxious, needy or insecure) and list all possible causes for it, associated thoughts that come with the trait, associated emotions, the trait's positive & negative aspects, examples from film, traits in supporting characters that would generate conflict, and most importantly.... what a character needs to do to overcome this trait as a major flaw AKA how to craft your character's arc. Seriously, you can't ask for more than this. Best book purchase in a long time!

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