

Funerals 1

Scenario

Your character goes home for her grandmother's funeral.

Questions

Write the answer to these questions. You don't have to use complete sentences. If possible, write the answers as part of a scene that may be in your finished story. As you write these snippets, always consider why your character makes these choices. What compels her to make this choice, as opposed to another? What is going on in her life or her past history that drives her to make these choices or take these actions? What colors her interpretation of the events?

Was she close to her grandmother?

What memories does she have of her grandmother?

What one memory in particular stands out for your character?

Did she know her grandmother was about to die?

Did she have a chance to say goodbye before it happened?

Was it sudden?

When she hears her grandmother has died, what does she feel? What is the first thing she thinks of?

Where did her grandmother live? Is it in the same town? In another state? A long way away?

Did your character visit her a lot? Why? Love or obligation?

Did your character only visit her on occasion? Why? Was it circumstances? Other reasons? If so, what reasons?

What other relatives are going to be there?

- Does she like them? All of them?
- Dislike any of them? Who and why?
- Does she want to avoid any of them? Who and why?

Is she dreading going to the funeral? If so, why?

Is she looking forward to going to the funeral? If so, why?

What happens at the funeral?

What kind of funeral is it?

- Somber and not much talking?

- An old-fashioned Irish wake?
- A chance for all the relatives to get together and talk?

Feelings about the deceased

- Is everyone sad the grandmother is dead?
- Is there someone who is happy about it? How does your character feel about that?

Does anything out of the ordinary happen at the funeral, at the cemetery or at the reception?

Is it a good thing? A negative thing? A good thing with negative effects? An inappropriate thing with positive effects? What effect does that have on your character?

Does it change anything in your character's life?

Does it change the way she feels about anyone?

As she returns home, how does your character feel?

Finally

What does the funeral and her experience at the funeral bring up for your character? What memory or emotion? Does it change anything for your character? If so, what? And why?

Choices

Your character always has choices. What choices does she make at each junction and why?

Think of your current story

How can you use this in your story?

Next

Do this exercise for the each of your characters.