

How Does Your Garden Grow – 1

Scenario

No matter how small a home or apartment is, there's always room to grow something. It can be as small as a few plants in the corner of the living room, a window box, a few plants on a balcony or even as large as acres outside with tons of trees and roses and whatever.

Your character's home has a place for some kind of garden.

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?

Where is the garden?

- Is it in one spot?
- Inside or outside or both?
- Is the house overflowing with plants?
- Is the house devoid of plants inside but have tons of them outside?

Does your character actually grow anything at all?

- If she doesn't, why not?
- If she does, what does she grow and why?

Does she have a favorite flower?

- A favorite color of flower?

What colors and flowers does she use and why?

Does she color coordinate her flowers with her home?

Is her garden organized? Formal? Chaotic? Riotous? Why?

Did she put in the garden or was it there when she moved in?

If she does her own gardening, why does she do it?

- Does she like it?
- Hate it?
- Do it for some other reason?

Does she let a service do it? Why or why not?

How does she feel about her garden?

Does the garden reflect her personality? What does it say about her?

Does it reveal a side of her she doesn't reveal to people in her daily life? If so, what does it reveal about her that her family or co-workers would never have guessed?

Has she neglected the garden?

- If so, for how long?
- Has it always been neglected?
- Or is that a recent thing?
- At one point did she actually spend time on the garden and then give it up?
- If so, what caused her to stop?

Finally

One day she comes home and notices something about the garden (or lack of one). What does she notice? And why?

What does this bring up for your character? What *specific* memory or emotion?

Does it change anything for your character?

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.