

Russian Matryoshka Dolls

Explore your thinking about a character – use Russian dolls as a symbol for the layers of the character's personality.

How deeply do you understand the character?



Outermost doll



The largest, outermost doll is always the most beautiful and perfectly painted because it is the layer that everyone sees and is intended for display – it attracts buyers.

This layer of the personality is the **surface**, most seemingly **perfect** version that is the version of the self that the character/person **wants others to see**. This may be a **carefully constructed** image that **hides** the more imperfect **reality**.



Second doll



The next doll in represents the version of the character/person seen by those who know them well; there are **clues** about their **personality** and **emotions** creeping through that show that the outer layer is **not quite the whole story**.



Third doll



The third doll is the version of the character/person's personality and emotions that show when they are **under stress** – these emotions and motivations are known only to **those who know the character best** or are seen when their masks come off and might be more **raw** and **powerful**, such as anger, grief, jealousy.



Innermost doll



The final, innermost doll represents the character/person's **innermost feelings** – the fear, shame, needs and beliefs that really **drive them**, perhaps things that they **keep secret even from themselves**.

