Tips to Make Your Character Interesting

1) **Give your character many personality traits**....make it ROUND. Take details from people in real life, if you want: funny habits, mannerisms, what makes people human.

2) **Give your character flaws.** We all have them. That’s what makes us human. Perfect characters are not interesting. When it comes to protagonists and antagonists, they’re neither 100% good nor 100% bad because there are not fully good or bad people. Get what I’m saying? Round characters are the thing we’re going for.

3) **Give your character a goal.** What do they want? What is their objective? Characters need reasons/motivations for doing things.

4) **Play against type.** Make your jock really smart. Make your nerdy college professor an expert on martial arts.

5) **Give your character a secret.** Secrets create suspense. Will Bob's mother guess that he snuck out of the house for a party? Will Mary’s boss sense that she's fallen in love with them? Will the secret come out? And if it does, what will happen next?

   And secrets can make characters act in interesting ways as they lie or try to cover their tracks.

   Does your character have a secret emotion:
   - a secret fear?
   - a secret desire?
   - a secret love?

   Has your character done something that s/he doesn't want others to find out about?

   Is there something shameful in his/her past?

   Is there some aspect of himself/herself that s/he doesn't like? Is s/he pretending to be someone s/he's not?

6) **Make your character proactive.** Proactive characters take control of situations and make things happen.

   Let’s say someone kidnaps your character. A reactive character would wait to be rescued. A proactive character would come up with a plan to get away. And after he gets away, he might decide to hunt down his kidnapper.

   Proactive characters are interesting to watch because they create action in your story.