**Supplemental Materials**

**Creating Fictional Characters: The Role of Experience, Personality, and Social Processes**

**by M. Maslej et al., 2017, *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts***

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**Appendix A: Regressions Examining Unique Prediction of Character Quality**

We examined the unique effects of reading or writing habits, personality traits, and social processing tendencies (controlling for the other predictors), based on all variables that were associated with the character ratings. Fiction and poetry writing habits, poetry reading habits, and openness were all associated with the ability to create interesting characters, and so we conducted a linear regression to determine whether any of these variables uniquely predicted to creation of interesting characters. The regression equation was statistically significant (*F*(4, 188) = 3.63, *p* = .01) with an *R2*of 0.07. However, none of the variables uniquely predicted character interest taking into account all other predictors, fiction writing: *β* = .03 (95% CI: -0.05, 0.11), *p* = .48; poetry writing: *β* = .11 (95% CI: -0.02, 0.23), *p* = .10; poetry reading: *β* = -.05 (95% CI: -0.17, 0.07), *p* = .43; openness: *β* = .19 (95% CI: -0.08, 0.45), *p* =.16.

There was only one predictor of Likeability ratings for characters, social characteristic accessibility, and so there was no need to explore unique associations through regression.

Fiction and poetry writing habits, poetry reading habits, openness, emotional stability, empathic concern, and fantasy were all associated with the tendency to create complex characters. We conducted a simultaneous multiple linear regression with these variables as predictors to examine whether any would uniquely predict complexity ratings, controlling for all other predictors. The regression equation was statistically significant (F(7, 185) = 2.91, *p* = .01) with an *R2*of 0.10. However, none of the variables uniqely predicted character complexity, fiction writing: *β* = .04 (95% CI: -0.03, 0.10), *p* = .28; poetry writing: *β* = .04 (95% CI: -0.06, 0.14), *p* = .39; poetry reading: *β* = -.03 (95% CI: -0.12, 0.07), *p* = .61; openness: *β* = .11 (95% CI: -0.11, 0.32), *p* =.33; emotional stability: *β* = -.12 (95% CI: -0.26, 0.02), *p* =.08; empathic concern: *β* = .13 (95% CI: -0.04, 0.30), *p* =.15; fantasy: *β* = .07 (95% CI: -0.08, 0.23), *p* =.35.

**Appendix B: Exact Values for Mediation Analyses**

Individual traits as mediators in the relationship between writing fiction and creating complex characters.

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| Individual trait | ab | SE | 95% CI |
| Openness | 0.02 | 0.01 | -0.006, 0.048 |
| Emotional stability | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.001, 0.021 |
| Fantasy | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.011, 0.036 |
| Empathic concern | 0.00 | 0.00 | -0.004, 0.014 |

Individual traits as mediations in the relationship between writing poetry and creating complex characters

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| Individual trait | ab | SE | 95% CI |
| Openness | 0.02 | 0.01 | -0.008, 0.050 |
| Emotional stability | 0.00 | 0.01 | -0.001, 0.015 |
| Fantasy | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.008, 0.034 |
| Empathic concern | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.002, 0.022 |

Individual traits as mediators in the relationship between reading poetry and creating complex characters.

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| Individual trait | ab | SE | 95% CI |
| Openness | 0.03 | 0.01 | -0.003, 0.054 |
| Emotional stability | 0.00 | 0.01 | -0.007, 0.014 |
| Fantasy | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.007, 0.037 |
| Empathic concern | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.002, 0.021 |

Character description length as a mediator in the relationship between habits/traits and creating interesting characters

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| Habit/trait | ab | SE | 95% CI |
| Poetry writing | 0.02 | 0.01 | -0.006, 0.05 |
| Poetry reading | 0.03 | 0.02 | -0.003, 0.06 |
| Openness | 0.06 | 0.05 | -0.03, 0.16 |
| Empathic concern | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.002, 0.021 |

Character description length as a mediator in the relationship between habits/traits and creating complex characters

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Habit/trait | ab | SE | 95% CI |
| Poetry writing | 0.03 | 0.02 | -0.006, 0.06 |
| Poetry reading | 0.04 | 0.02 | -0.002, 0.08 |
| Openness | 0.07 | 0.06 | -0.04, 0.20 |
| Empathic concern | 0.08 | 0.05 | -0.02, 0.019 |