

Consultation Transcript

This transcript is a full record of a 1-hour consultation I had with kiroku. Kiroku has an original character named Bandit, who has a speech impediment, a resulting lack of willingness to speak, and a quiet nature as a result. Kiroku was in the process of completing the questionnaire and needed help drawing out details about Bandit that were not related to this speech impediment.

>kiroku, 20:08

Thank you for helping me! I have had this character "Bandit" for a while, but haven't really formalized any story or personality to him. I looked over your questionnaire and realized that I should brainstorm who this character is before trying to fill it out. I found I was best at sitting down and writing what comes to mind without worrying about order and what makes the most sense.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:08

Yes, that's a good idea.

For all that the questionnaire asks specific questions, most people who fill it in end up telling their character's life story as just that - a story, so I end up taking what I can out of that (which is often quite a lot) and ask further questions.

It's a nice way to work - it works for you guys because you get to brainstorm in a way that works for you, and the questions tend to nudge you to write things that I can take the information I need from, so it gives me a good, solid starting point to work with you.

>kiroku, 20:14

Yeah, I do like these questions. I was surprised at myself for never thinking about the character's childhood.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:15

They're good, aren't they? I do love that piece of theory.

It's by Erik Erikson, and he's got this very, well, sagely and gentle way of writing

>kiroku, 20:21

That's very cool. Looking over this again after doing some brainstorming makes this a bit easier to start. One thing I did want to emphasize in the character is that his anatomy works against him (so he feels) and because it makes it harder to communicate, he developed better listening and observation skills.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:24

Oh sure, so he doesn't get to talk much because of his physical limitations, so he listens more, and over time he got good at it - and listening's quite the skill, especially when you're surrounded by people who want to tell their own stories.

>kiroku, 20:27

Exactly, and he tends to live more in his head / to himself than outwardly. Would you be okay with quickly going over what I wrote while thinking about the character? I am looking for if I'm not focusing on the correct thing or if there are areas I need to be thinking about or expanding on. I'm going to use this to help fill out the questionnaire as best as possible.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:33

Absolutely - go for it!

>kiroku, 20:33

Thanks! I can send you the file or a link - whichever you prefer

>The Character Consultancy, 20:34

Let's go for a link please!

>kiroku, 20:36

[link provided]

It's not greatly written, but I found it to help me start thinking

>The Character Consultancy, 20:38

No worries! I'm just reading it now. Is there anything in particular you want me to look for in it / any questions at the front of your mind?

Aha, so his speech problems, are they with making B / M / P etc. sounds?

>kiroku, 20:40

I'm just making sure I'm not going to too much of a tangent right now when trying to figure out who the character is. I want to make sure I'm not getting ahead of myself or focusing on the wrong things this early

Yeah, any words or sounds that require a lot of lip mechanic

>The Character Consultancy, 20:41

Got it

So you're wanting to make sure you get balance in him as a character and focus on more than just the better-practised observational skills?

>kiroku, 20:45

Yeah. I guess a lot of his character comes from his difficulty to communicate and his observational skill was developed and that also led him to be more meticulous and introspective than maybe another character or groups of characters he would know.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:46

Understood.

>kiroku, 20:47

But there is always that struggle in situations that could make him look or seem bad because he can't explain or get out an idea to others, so it's not like he's always seen as this deep or careful thinker.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:49

Right - so because speech is mechanically difficult for him, does he get mistaken for less intelligent than he is? And how is he at articulating himself when he needs to, given that he is generally out of practice with talking? I'm imagining that having to verbally stand his ground can be quite a challenge, especially if he feels as if he might fail himself by struggling to say a certain thing eloquently

I have another question: given that he's half-bird, did he hatch or was he live-born?

>kiroku, 20:51

Possibly less intelligent, but to others maybe more commonly thought of as very different or even a little odd.

I actually don't know what would make more sense. I think I would say live born because he is mostly coyote.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:54

My gut is saying live-born too.

How come he knows so little about his parents?

>kiroku, 20:56

Mostly because I don't know anything about them haha. I left that as is for now, but I do actually want to try to have a connection between the character and his parents.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:57

Understood! I have a thought about that to put forward, if you're open to it?

>kiroku, 20:57

Absolutely! I don't know where to even start.

>The Character Consultancy, 20:59

So Bandit lives in a fairly large pack. Could it be that his pack breed and co-exist like many packs / distinct groups around the world, ie., they either breed when they meet with another pack to prevent inbreeding, or the males leave the pack to found a new one elsewhere or live a solitary life?

If so, that would explain why he didn't know his dad very well.

That would also help to account for why he's less well-acquainted with his mum, while still giving you wiggle room to build a relationship between those two: raising children is a lot of work and can be incredibly daunting, so if his mum had to raise her by herself and was in a pack, then chances are she'd have taken guidance and/or shared the responsibility of raising him with other members of the pack.

Depending on how the politics of the pack works, it could even be that he's not restricted to being raised by just the females. In some species, the dads are the *really* dedicated parents

>kiroku, 21:03

Hmm. Thank you for that! I think that helps a lot. I might combine that the males leave the pack and the pack that the mother is in communally help to raise the young.

That scenario is much more open ended for development than my original "he doesn't know" haha

>The Character Consultancy, 21:05

Glad I could help!

So, with Luka - it sounds like he has the same speech impediment but is much more talkative. Is that the case?

>kiroku, 21:07

Yes, Luka has about the same difficulty but is much less bothered or self conscious about it. He's more external and outgoing than Bandit, for sure

>The Character Consultancy, 21:09

Sounds like they really do make a good pair! A lot of us are attracted (not necessarily sexually, I mean in terms of the person's confidence) to people who just don't seem to care about things that we ourselves are self-conscious about

>kiroku, 21:12

Mhmm! I can definitely see a conversation between them where Luka basically says "Stop thinking about that so much, we are all like this" and it doesn't solve his issue, Bandit does like that Luka keeps him "in check"

>The Character Consultancy, 21:14

I want to ask as well: he's obsessive and routine-based, so given that he lives in a fairly rural/forest setting, I wonder whether he likes the idea of becoming some kind of spiritual leader/guide? I ask because many tribes have rituals that they use. If he likes the predictable so much then rituals may be very much his thing, so if he could become the pack shaman or similar, then that would allow him to do all the ritualistic stuff he wanted. Would you say that that appeals?

>kiroku, 21:16

That fits pretty well. He is more introspective and quiet, so that might fit someone who would want to be in that role

>The Character Consultancy, 21:16

Ah - actually, I think the part where you say he wants lots of things in different places and wants a job in the town suggests that he might not want a shamanic-style job after all. But I'll leave that there in case you can get anything from that?

>kiroku, 21:17

Yeah, maybe that could be something he wanted when he was younger and become more familiar with town life changed what he thought his life would be like

>The Character Consultancy, 21:18

Maybe! In fact, I can very much see that happening during his adolescence.

>kiroku, 21:18

Yes! And that could help me establish a lot more about who he was as a child

>The Character Consultancy, 21:19

The funny thing about adolescence is that we tend to re-assess all the stuff we've learned about life, the universe, and everything, up until the start of our teens. We think it all over again, and by the time we become adults, have either firmed up earlier decisions or freed ourselves from them by choosing to think or act differently.

So "I want to be the spiritual person in my tribe" can certainly change to "I want to go beyond my tribe to see what else is out there (and that means I don't have to be the spiritual leader, but can be closer to others because I don't have to be their superior)"
I can't imagine that he particularly relishes the idea of leadership

>kiroku, 21:21

Yeah, I doubt his confidence drives him to want to be responsible for a large group
And that could be part of him learning that he wouldn't want to become a spiritual leader when he got a little older

>The Character Consultancy, 21:22

Yes, for sure! In fact...

Given his difficulties with speech, and what with him being male, could it be that going through male puberty made speech a humiliating experience for him entirely, and since leadership generally requires public speaking, he may have shied away from it entirely

I'm also thinking about his gentle and thoughtful nature in light of his being from a big pack likely led by a matriarch (or at least having a powerful/influential matriarch). Chances are, his experiences as a newborn were that he was very well looked after because he had a wealth of experienced mothers, grandmothers, and aunts around him, so that meant he could retreat into daydreaming and introspection much more easily - he didn't have to keep his attention external
Does that make sense?

>kiroku, 21:27

Yes! He didn't have to concern himself with survival or extreme hardships without a mother figure in one way or another in his life
Someone was always there to mother him, and he could focus on more things he wanted to rather than needed to

>The Character Consultancy, 21:29

Yes, absolutely. And he could easily have spent time in the laps of any number of tribal ladies as they wove jewellery, bags, baskets, etc. So no wonder he became so enamoured with making such things. They are familiar to him, and comforting.

>kiroku, 21:30

Wow - this is amazing. Thank you so much for your help!

>The Character Consultancy, 21:31

That's no problem at all!
So that's pretty much exactly an hour.
Do you feel like you've gotten everything you needed from this session?

>kiroku, 21:32

Yes, I feel like we were able to get more done in this hour than what I would have done in a week or two haha
I have so much more to build off of now. I will be able to work out some of the details and then fill out the questionnaire very soon!

>The Character Consultancy, 21:33

Fantastic! I look forward to working on Bandit whenever you're ready!

So it sounds like that's all you need, but since we have that session booked in tomorrow I just want to check (because, you know: over-communicating is better than under) - would you still like us to do an hour tomorrow, or was today enough?

>kiroku, 21:36

No this was perfect! Thanks for meeting with me today!