

WRITE IT DOWN—BEGIN YOUR DYC

CHARACTER

RESEARCH JOURNAL

As you walk around your world—or the world of your character—we suggest you keep a *DYC* character journal. This can be a physical notebook, or an electronic one, where you write down your character clues as you gather them. If you wanted to further explore the cup mentioned in the above example, you might ask *more* questions:

- Does this college souvenir create a fond memory or something akin to regret?
- Did she in fact go to college?
- Does the cup even belong to your character? Was it left behind by someone else? A former boyfriend who's just moved out and intentionally left the cup behind as a subtle reminder?

From our experience, getting really specific often takes you down roads that you've not thought about. You do not know, yet, how you will use these clues. You're creating a storehouse of seemingly diverse details that will eventually collapse into a tangible, three-dimensional protagonist as we get further into the *DYC* story system. The writer's mind—your mind—is good at ordering and identifying experiences, but it has to almost move aside for this