



The Eye Patch

One element of character that is important to remind readers of is your protagonist's history. One tool to help do this is what I like to call 'The Eye Patch'. Giving your character a physical, behavioral, or emotional eye patch will help them consistently build mystique while reminding readers of an 'unknown' wound and how it affects their arc of change.

Use this worksheet to help you identify an eye patch you could use.

What wound has your protagonist suffered in the past that he/she is trying (or not) to overcome?

Physical Wound

Is your character's physical wound visible? Y / N

If so, do they try to hide it? Y / N

- If they do, *how* do they try to keep it hidden?

- *Why* do they try to keep it hidden?

How they hide it can be their 'eye patch'. Why they hide it can signal their arc of change.

If their wound isn't visible, or they don't try to hide it, do they talk about it? Y / N

- If they do, *how* do they present it?

- *Why* do they present it in this way?

How they present it can be their 'eye patch'. Why they present it this way can signal their arc of change.

If they don't try to hide it, and they don't talk about it, this behavior could also be the 'eye patch'. Ignoring the wound can be a consistent behavior, especially as other characters respond to it.

Emotional Wound

Is your character's emotional wound known to others? Y / N

If so, do they try to avoid the topic? Y / N

- If they do, *how* do they avoid the topic?

- *Why* do they avoid the topic?

How they avoid the topic can be their 'eye patch'. Why they avoid it can signal their arc of change.

If their wound isn't known to the other characters, do they bring it up? Y / N

- If they do, *how* do they present it?

- *Why* do they present it?

How they present it can be their 'eye patch'. Why they present it can signal their arc of change.

If they don't try to avoid the topic, but they don't bring it up either, this behavior could also be the 'eye patch'. Ignoring the wound can be a consistent behavior, especially as other characters probe to get to the bottom of the behavior.