

# Character Worksheet for Luke McLaren

*From Adventure, Murder, and Intrigue at Madame World's Fair By Philip O'Neil*

Luke McLaren is the main host of Pan-Pacific Exposition tour and mystery game.

He is 48 years old, Caucasian American of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Luke is 5'9" height, thin build, gray-blue-bloodshot eyes, and medium brown hair with graying temples. He is well dressed but somewhat untidy with his appearance. He ports a cane and tends to slouch.

He grew up in a small town about 50 miles from St. Louis, Missouri. As a newspaper journalist, he has stayed in California, Connecticut and traveled all over the world. His father was a strict Methodist preacher but "religion" never took to him. Luke feels like he came from an upper middle class background, but this is only relative to his father's standing in his hometown.

Luke never went to college but became very well educated through his work as a newspaper journalist. He has an appetite for reading critical thinking authors like Ben Franklin, John Locke, Rousseau & Voltaire.

Luke had mixed political beliefs. He admires the honest lives of primitive or peasant peoples of the world and cherishes them. Luke also feels that he must accept the contradictions of living in a corrupted modern world. He admires science and the hopes it might solve world problems of illness and poverty. He detests politicians.

Luke's second spouse, Alice, have been together 3 years. Each has a child from previous marriage. Luke fell in love with Alice for her beauty and simple charm. For Luke, Alice could also protect him from the lures of drinking and gambling. While traveling over the years, he often succumbed to excessive drinking because of homesickness for family. Luke can now enjoy a wife family life again, with whom he can be himself. Luke exhibits a prankster personality with his daughter Annie. The relationship with his stepson, Clint, needs time to build. Luke and Clint are now bonding with a shared conspiracy of silly pranks aimed at Annie.

Generally, Luke is kind with ordinary folks, but he can verbally outwit those that might in malign others in conversation. Luke, like the Ozark hill folks, likes to tell "Whoppers" or tall tales as an entertainment. Sometimes one his ordinary conversations might become a "Whopper" just for the hell of it.

Luke has already achieved some money and fame and really does not need to achieve those goals. He is already a famous writer, but for him there is always one more book to write. As a writer and lecturer, he hopes to enlighten folks about the wonder of the world. He definitely has passion and opinions about how the world works. Luke new life as an engaged father is the driving motivation for him. The years of long newspaper work hours, trips abroad; drinking, gambling and death of his previous wife have kept away from his happiness. He has this new love of family and children to protect. You can see Luke walking hand in hand with Alice or his daughter. Luke likes giving friendly formal gestures to children and ordinary working people. He wears his nice clothes unpretentiously. He accepts graciously any offered flower to pin on his lapel. (Often accepting a dandelion from his daughter!)

Luke views the world with both wonder and skepticism. He does not care for high society even though he is often amongst them. He is proud to accompany of his Native American wife, stepson, and likes going to Powwows and rodeos. At the fair, Luke has learned and uses many languages from his travels and likes to joke with native people who live in native village exhibits. He shows his respect by tipping his hat to children and women.

Somehow, Luke is the catalyst for trouble. While visiting the Palace of Machinery, he and his family narrowly miss a dangerous steam boiler explosion. While exiting a restaurant, he finds himself in the path of a man

running from the police. At the end of his lecture, he composes the shocked audience from the discovery of a murder.

Luke can communicate confidence to all in crisis, but he only shows confidence. Luke makes witty remarks as way to keep his family calm and fending off his own fears. Internally he has no stomach for misery. While he does know how to survive difficult situations, he loathes solving problems by himself. He often seeks the wisdom of his wife Alice who is more intuitive than he is. Luke also enlists his family as sleuths to solve the crimes

Luke is likable. He can be wise or stupid. He is smart and wise enough to know how to defer to someone else's views.