



Cut Line



NATIONALITY

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PREVIEW

PREVIEW

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PRAISED FOR

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PREVIEW

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YA
FLOW

PREVIEW

QUOTE



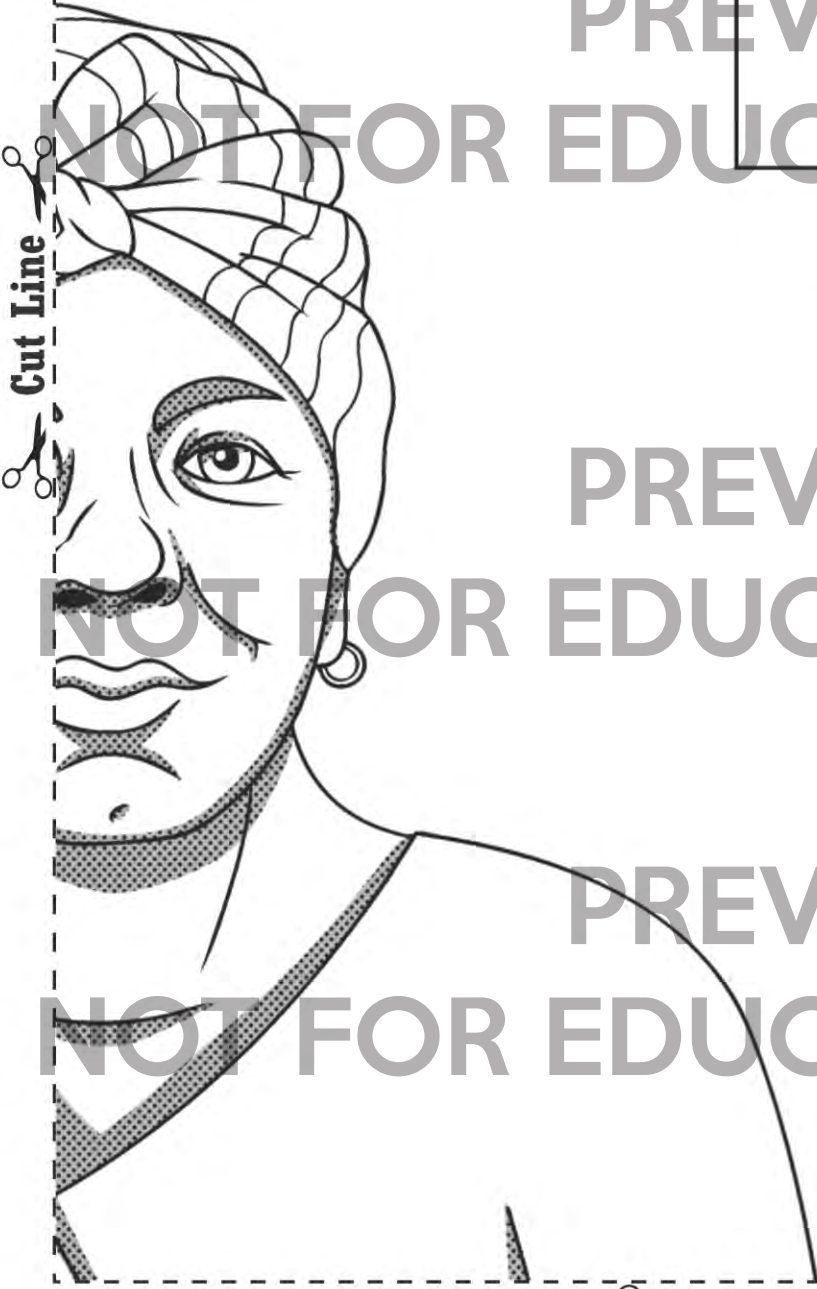
PREVIEW



EDUCATION
& CAREER

PREVIEW

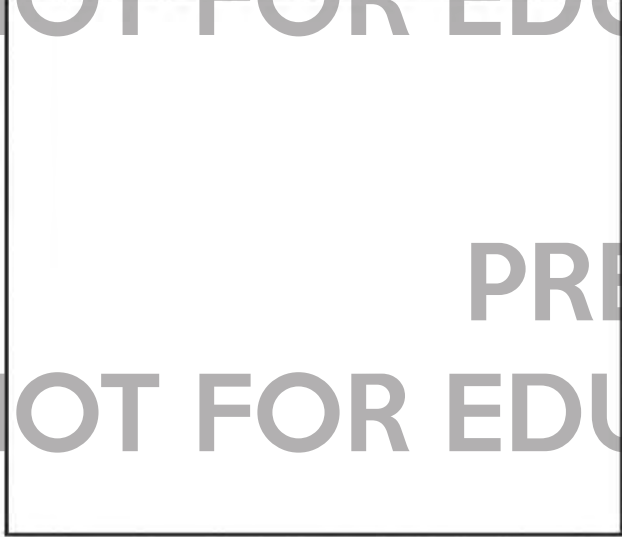
PREVIEW



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CRITICIZED FOR



PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



MAJOR OBSTACLE



PREVIEW

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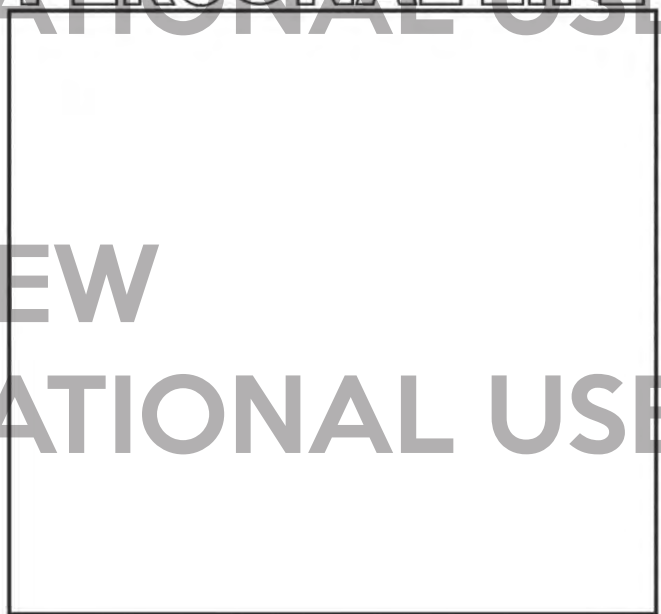
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PASSION / TALENT



PERSONAL LIFE



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PREVIEW

2 MAJOR LIFE EVENTS

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BIRTH DATE

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PREVIEW
3 ADJECTIVES

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PREVIEW

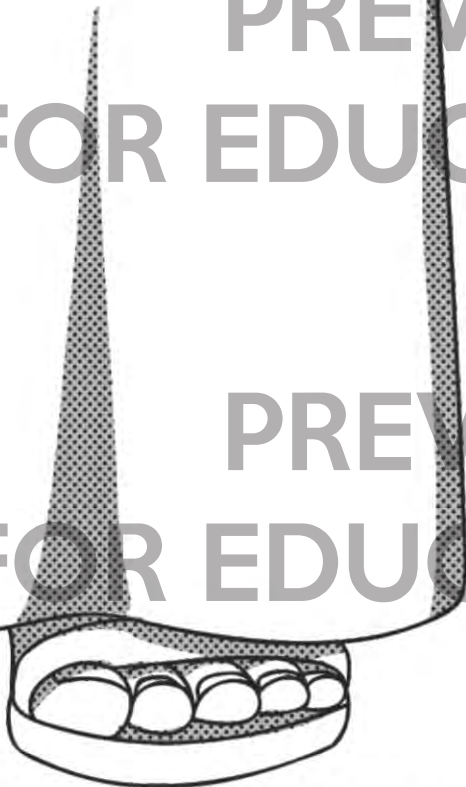
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DEATH DATE

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Literary Legends Author Study Project Rubric

	20	15	10	5
Research	The group conducts thorough research on the author. The group demonstrates a deep understanding of the historical context and events related to the person's life. The project depicts important events of the author's life accurately and specifically. The group includes meaningful information.	The group conducts research on the author. The group demonstrates a basic understanding of the historical context and events related to the person's life. The project depicts some important events of the author's life accurately and specifically. The group includes mostly meaningful information.	The group conducts some research on the author. The group demonstrates an elementary understanding of the historical context and events related to the person's life. The project depicts events of the author's life that are moderately unclear or inaccurate. The group includes a fair amount of meaningful information.	The group conducts little research on the author. The group does not demonstrate an understanding of the historical context and events related to the person's life. The project depicts unimportant events of the author's life that are inaccurate and ambiguous. The group mainly includes nonessential information.
Overall Appearance	The overall appearance is exceptionally creative and aesthetically pleasing. The graphic elements are skillfully and neatly colored. The written text is distinct and easy to read.	The overall appearance is creative and aesthetically pleasing. The graphic elements are neatly colored for the most part. The written text is easy to see and read.	The overall appearance is somewhat creative and acceptably attractive. The graphic elements are colored completely, though slightly messy. The written text is visible and decently readable.	The overall appearance is messy and not attractive to look at. The graphic elements are not colored completely. The written text is difficult to see and comprehend.
Participation	All students in the group are on task, and everyone completes his/her individual role. All group members contribute to the planning, research, and execution of the project. Group members follow directions and complete the project on time.	Mostly all students in the group are on task, and majority of the members complete his/her individual role. Most of the group members contribute to the planning, research, and execution of the project. Most of the group members follow directions and complete the project on time.	Some of the students in the group are on task, and some group members complete his/her individual role. Some of the group members contribute to the planning, research, and execution of the project. Some of the group members follow directions and complete the project on time.	The students in the group are seldom on task, and less than half of the group members complete his/her individual role. The group members scarcely spend time planning and researching for the project. Hardly any of the group members follow directions nor complete the project on time.
Cooperation	The group works together to create a well-executed project. Students respect one another and encourage the ideas and efforts of others in a cooperative manner. The group demonstrates a positive attitude towards the project.	The group works together to create a completed project. Students mostly respect one another and maybe encourage the ideas and efforts of others. The group demonstrates a positive attitude towards the project.	The group sometimes works together, but mostly works independently to create a completed project. Students sometimes respect one another and tolerate the ideas and efforts of others. The group demonstrates a somewhat positive attitude towards the project.	The group does not work together in order to complete the project. Students show minimal respect for one another and struggle to tolerate the ideas and efforts of others in a decent manner. The group demonstrates a negative attitude towards the project.
Attention to Detail	Writing contains 0-1 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling. The group thoroughly and effectively completes all the project requirements.	Writing contains maybe 2-3 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling, but it does not distract the reader from the overall content. The group completes all of the project requirements.	Writing contains 3-4 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling that somewhat distract the reader from the content. The group completes most of the project requirements.	Writing contains more than 4 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling that distract the reader from the content. The group completes some of the project requirements.

Group Members:

Additional Comments:

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Collaborative Author Study Project

Objective: Research a specific author in order to learn about his/her career, life, and notable achievements. Create an attractive poster that includes a colored illustration of the author and presents the most crucial information from your research.

1. The poster is comprised of 6 separate pieces of paper. Evenly distribute the pieces of the poster amongst the members in your group.
2. Look for reputable sources of information and websites from credible organizations. Research the author, specifically using the categories you are assigned. Take notes on your findings, but don't write directly on your poster just yet. Write down your notes on the brainstorming worksheet.
3. Examine and analyze the information you've gathered. Compare notes with your group members and remove any repeated or redundant information. Choose essential information that you will use to fill in the appropriate boxes on your pieces of paper. Proofread, revise, and edit the information you've found. Make sure the information you gathered is written in your own words.
4. Neatly copy your final drafts of information onto your poster. Use dark pen or marker. (You can use pencil to begin with and then trace over the pencil with a darker pen).
5. Collaborate with your group to choose a color scheme for your poster. Each group member should color an equal number of pages. You can use crayons, colored pencils, markers, glitter, and other crafting materials. The poster must be entirely colored.
6. Complete the project! Carefully cut along the dotted lines to retrieve the final 6 pieces of poster paper. Tape the 6 pieces of paper in their proper places, so that the illustration lines up correctly.



Author Study Project

Brainstorming Worksheet

First, research your author and write your findings here. Next, transfer your answers to the boxes on your poster. Each box on your poster should include 1-3 sentences.

NATIONALITY:

Where was the author born? What country is the author from? Where are the author's parents from?

PRAISED FOR:

Why is this author famous? What do people admire and celebrate about this author? List notable works.

CRITICIZED FOR:

What is the author judged for negatively? What is something the author has said or done that is not approved by others? Why do some people dislike this author?

MAJOR OBSTACLE:

What mental, physical, or emotional obstacles has the author had to overcome? What challenges or barriers, such as financial difficulties or health problems, did the author face?

TWO MAJOR LIFE EVENTS:

Briefly explain two major events that occurred in the author's life. A major life event is a significant occurrence that has a lasting impact on an individual's life. These events can be positive or negative.

BIRTH DATE:

When was the author born? Be as specific as possible.

QUOTE:

Choose a quote by the author. Include the context of the quote. When was it said? Is it a line from a novel? A poem? An interview? Explain the meaning of the quote.

PREVIEW

EDUCATION AND CAREER:

Where and when did the author attend school? What career choices led this person to become a successful author? When did this person become an author? When did the author achieve fame?

PASSION/TALENT:

What skills or talents does the author possess? What beliefs, ideals, or goals does the author have strong feelings about? What activities is the author enthusiastic about (what brings him/her joy)?

PERSONAL LIFE:

What are at least two facts about the author's personal life? For example: Is the author married? Does the author have children? Does the author have siblings? Who is the author's closest ally or friend?

THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

When did the author pass away? If the author is still living, what is his/her age?

Maya Angelou Example Answers

Author Study Project

First, research your author and write your findings here. Next, transfer your answers to the boxes on your poster. Each box on your poster should include 1-3 sentences.

NATIONALITY:

Where was the author born? What country is the author from? Where are the author's parents from?

Angelou was an American writer; she was born in St. Louis, Missouri.

PRAISED FOR:

Why is this author famous? What do people admire and celebrate about this author? List notable works.

Maya is a beloved dancer, actress, singer, activist, and author. She is admired and praised by many for her strength, resilience, and writings that often touch on themes of hope. She makes people feel worthy and loved. Her memoirs and poems offer insight to readers about the African American experience, particularly for Black women. She also shares her personal journey about growing up in the Jim Crow South and the fight for civil rights. Her most famous titles of work include: "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "And Still I Rise," "Phenomenal Woman," "On the Pulse of Morning," "The Heart of a Woman," and "Life Doesn't Frighten Me."

CRITICIZED FOR:

What is the author judged for negatively? What is something the author has said or done that is not approved by others? Why do some people dislike this author?

Maya Angelou was a civil rights activist and very outspoken about her political beliefs. She faced some criticism for her open support of Democratic politicians, such as Bill and Hilary Clinton.

MAJOR OBSTACLE:

What mental, physical, or emotional obstacles has the author had to overcome? What challenges or barriers, such as financial difficulties or health problems, did the author face?

Angelou had a traumatic childhood. Angelou went to live with her grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas at an early age because her parents were so volatile as a couple. When she was only 7 years old, Angelou was raped by her mother's boyfriend. Maya testified against him in court, resulting in his conviction. The man was murdered shortly after his release from prison, and it is widely believed that Angelou's uncles are responsible for his murder. After this real-life nightmare unfolded, Angelou became mute for six years.

TWO MAJOR LIFE EVENTS:

Briefly explain two major events that occurred in the author's life. A major life event is a significant occurrence that has a lasting impact on an individual's life. These events can be positive or negative.

In 1993, she was asked to deliver a poem at the Presidential Inauguration for Bill Clinton. The poem was titled "On the Pulse of Morning" and encouraged the people of America to come together and make the changes necessary for a more inclusive and fair society.

In 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Angelou the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor. She received this award in recognition of her remarkable contributions to the fields of literature, poetry, and civil rights activism.

BIRTH DATE:

When was the author born? Be as specific as possible.

May Angelou was born Marguerite Annie Johnson on April 4, 1928. Her older brother, Bailey, gave her the nickname "Maya."

QUOTE:

Choose a quote by the author. Include the context of the quote. When was it said? Is it a line from a novel? A poem? An interview? Explain the meaning of the quote.

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them." Maya Angelou shared this powerful quote in her book "Letter to My Daughter," which was published in 2008. In the book, she imparts wisdom and life lessons to all of her readers.

EDUCATION AND CAREER:

Where and when did the author attend school? What career choices led this person to become a successful author? When did this person become an author? When did the author achieve fame?

Maya Angelou did not go to college. She was an avid reader and used many of her personal experiences in her writing. After she became famous as an author, she was awarded more than 30 honorary degrees. Maya's "big break" came with her first autobiographical work, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" published in 1969. It captivated readers and quickly became a bestseller. She was considered an influential figure in both the literary and civil rights movements, using her powerful words to inspire and empower others. Her career was not limited to writing. She also had an active career as a professor, director, actress, and orator.

PASSION/TALENT:

What skills or talents does the author possess? What beliefs, ideals, or goals does the author have strong feelings about? What activities is the author enthusiastic about (what brings him/her joy)?

Maya has always had a passion for written word, especially when she was a child and could not vocalize her thoughts and feelings. She also found joy in motherhood, music, reading, and teaching. Maya loved to cook and even published two of her own cookbooks.

PERSONAL LIFE:

What are at least two facts about the author's personal life? For example: Is the author married? Does the author have children? Does the author have siblings? Who is the author's closest ally or friend?

Maya had one son named Clyde Bailey (Guy) Johnson whose father is not publicly known. She married Tosh Angelos, an electrician in the US Navy. She faced backlash because they were an interracial couple.

She adopted a form of his surname (Angelou) and kept it throughout her life. Their marriage ended in divorce in 1954. Her second marriage was to Paul du Feu, a South African civil rights activist, in 1973. They divorced less than 10 years later.

THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

Trailblazing, resolute, wise

DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

When did the author pass away? If the author is still living, what is his/her age?

Maya Angelou passed away on May 28, 2014. She died at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, at the age of 86. The cause of her death was reported as natural causes.



NATIONALITY

Angelou was an American writer; she was born in St. Louis, Missouri.

MAYA ANGELOU



QUOTE

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them." Maya Angelou shared this powerful quote in her book "Letter to My Daughter," which was published in 2008. In the book, she imparts wisdom and life lessons to all of her readers.



PRaised FOR

Maya is a beloved dancer, actress, singer, activist, and author. She is admired and praised by many for her strength, resilience, and writings that often touch on themes of hope. She makes people feel worthy and loved. Her memoirs and poems offer insight to readers about the African American experience, particularly Black women. She also shares her personal journey about growing up in the Jim Crow South and the fight for civil rights. Her most famous titles of work include "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "And Still I Rise," "Phenomenal Woman," "On the Pulse of Morning," "The Heart of a Woman," and "Life Doesn't Frighten Me."



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PASSION / TALENT

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PERSONAL LIFE

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2 MAJOR LIFE EVENTS

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In 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Angelou the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor. She received this award in recognition of her remarkable contributions to the fields of literature, poetry, and civil rights activism.

3 ADJECTIVES

Trailblazing

Resolute

Wise



BIRTH DATE

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DEATH DATE

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