

# “By the Waters of Babylon” by Stephen Vincent Benét

## One Pager Project

A one-pager is a collage of illustrations and written analyses on one page that make up an aesthetically pleasing and detailed interpretation of a subject or piece of literature.

### Directions:

Share your unique understanding of the text on one page by imaginatively blending your written ideas with colorful images from the story. You should spend at least thirty minutes reading and/or brainstorming ideas before you begin decorating your page. Use a standard size piece of blank paper (8.5 x 11) or you may use a template provided for you.

### Below is a list of what should be included on your page:

- Include the title of the short story and the author.
- Include one or more important quotations from the text.
- Include four or more illustrations/graphic images related to the story.
- Include one theme from the story and an explanation in your own words.
- Explain one or more conflicts from the text.
- In 1-2 sentences, explain why you liked or disliked this story.
- Choose three of the following literary elements to incorporate into your project: point of view, setting, climax, allusion, foreshadowing, symbolism, mood, tone, irony, figurative language, characterization, or imagery. You will identify the elements as they pertain to the story (do not define what they are in general, but explain how they are part of the story specifically).
- You must fill the entire page.
- Your page must be colored.

### Grading Rubric:

Overall Appearance	Your page is detailed and neat. Images are clear and text is easy to read. The overall appearance is creative and aesthetically pleasing.	10 Points
Information	You choose relevant and insightful information to include on the page. You include all the components required in the directions.	10 Points
Analysis	You show you understand the literature through your explanation and use of examples from the text.	10 Points
Evidence	The quotations and other examples of evidence are both meaningful and accurate.	10 Points
Graphics	You choose illustrations that highlight important parts of the short story. The graphic elements are neat, colored, and are incorporated seamlessly into the work.	10 Points

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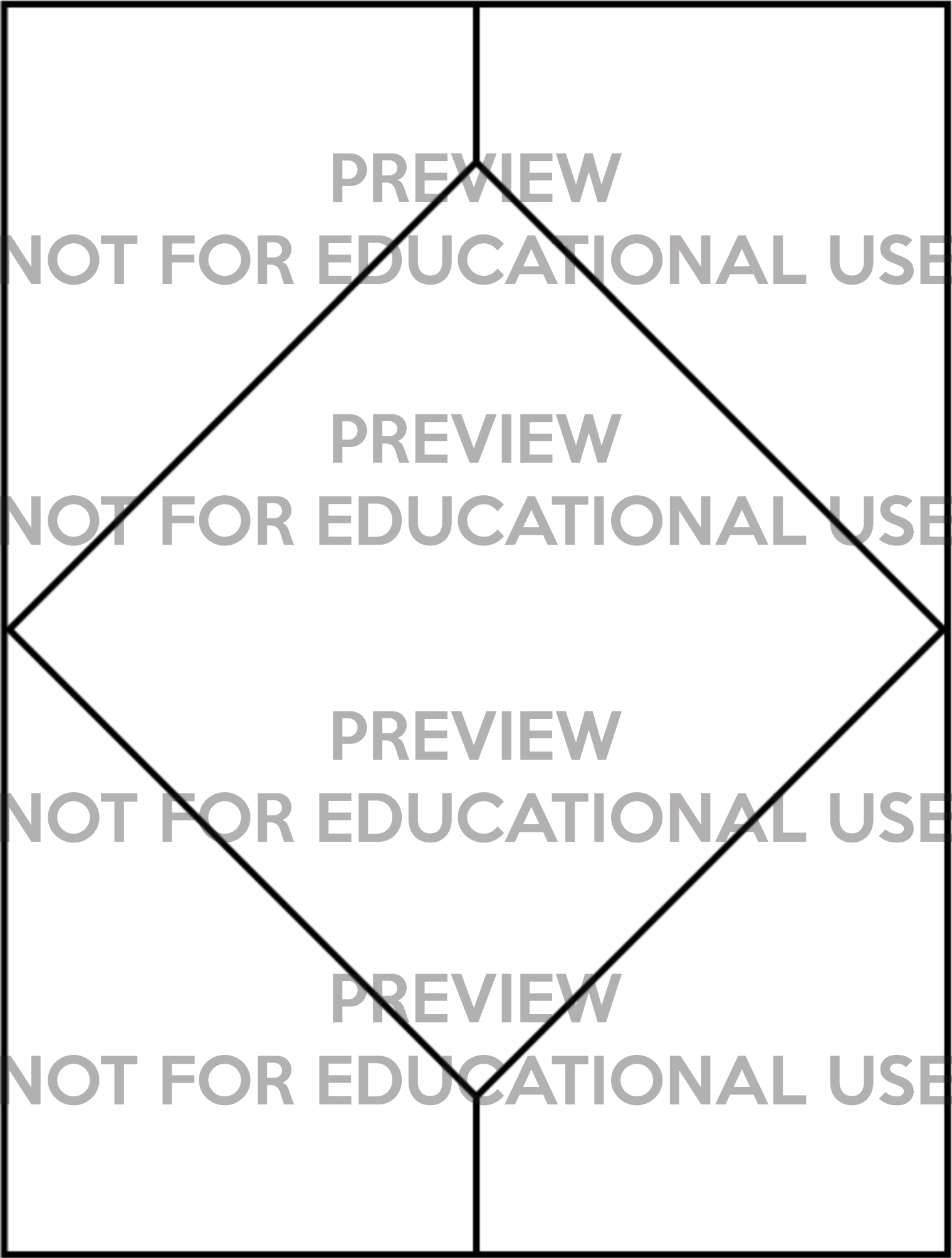
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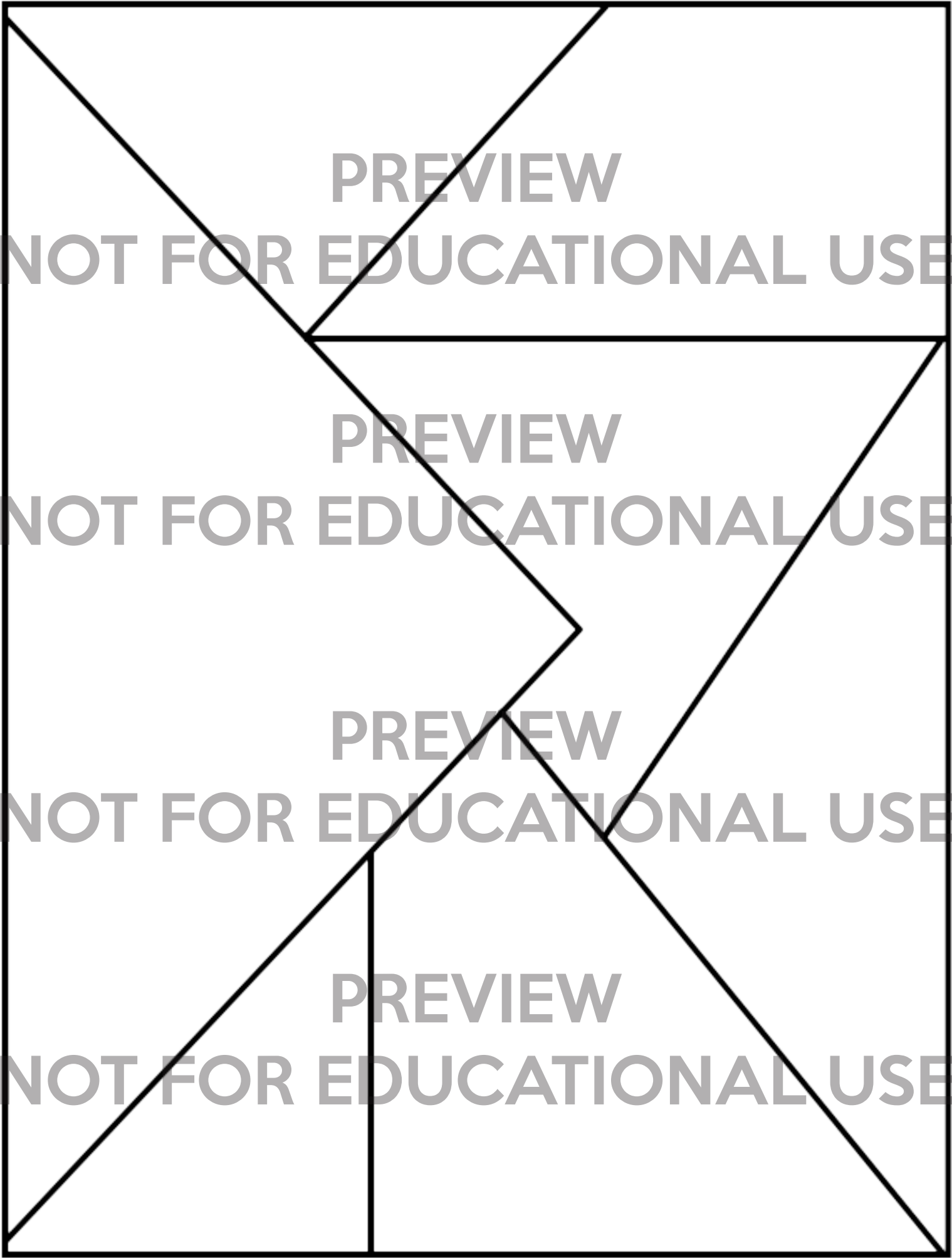


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## By the Waters of Babylon

Stephen Vincent Benét

### SETTING:

The eastern side of the United States in a post-apocalyptic society.

**THEME:** Rivalries will always arise among different groups of people regardless of how trivial their differences are. This is seen through the tribes the Hill people and the Forest people. The theme is also emphasized in the setting because the story takes place after a war has left the cities in ruins. War is inescapable in society.

"If I went to the Place of the Gods, I would surely die, but if I did not go, I could never beat peace with my spirit again. It is better to lose one's life than one's spirit if one is a priest and the son of a priest."  
- John

### SYMBOLISM:

The metal that the priests collect symbolize superstitions perpetuated by tribe members who say only priests can touch metal until it's purified. Supposedly, any other person who touches the metal first will get sick and die.

**POINT OF VIEW:** The story is told from first person point of view. John is the narrator.

### INTERNAL CONFLICT

John struggles between his desire to see what is in The Place of the Gods and his fear of the challenges he will face once he leaves the village.

I enjoyed this story because of the vivid imagery as well as the themes that explore the consequence of human actions.

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