

Cut Line



NATIONALITY

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PREVIEW



PRAISED FOR

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QUOTE



PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



EDUCATION
& CAREER

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NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



Cut Line

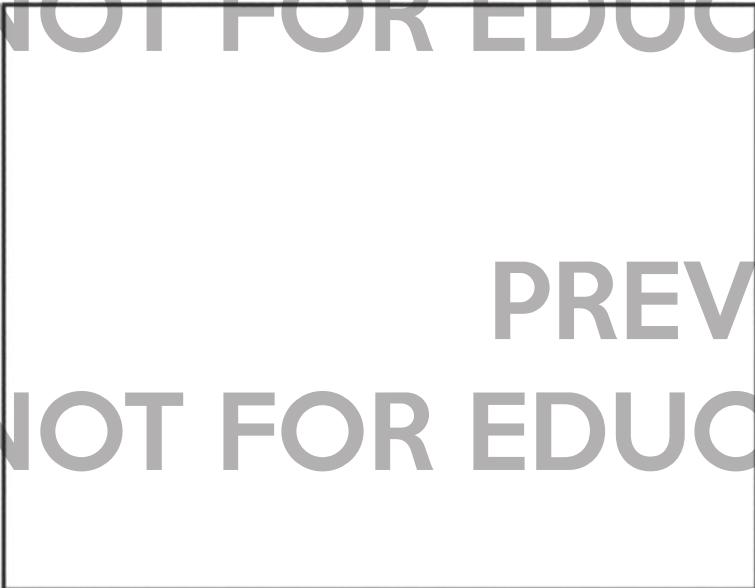
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CRITICIZED FOR



MAJOR OBSTACLE



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PASSION / TALENT

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW

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PREVIEW

PERSONAL LIFE

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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12 MAJOR LIFE EVENTS

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BIRTH DATE

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3 ADJECTIVES

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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?

Author Study Project

Harper Lee (Answers will vary)

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?

Harper Lee was American. Nelle Harper Lee was born in Monroeville, Alabama, and was the youngest of four children. Her parents were Amasa Coleman Lee and Frances Cunningham Finch Lee.

PRAISED FOR:

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

Harper Lee published two books in her lifetime: *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*. In 2007, President George W. Bush presented her the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her praiseworthy contribution to American literature.

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?

To Kill a Mockingbird was repeatedly banned and challenged (and still is today) because of the harsh, offensive language from the time period. Some readers also criticize the novel's use of the white savior trope.

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?

Harper Lee grew up as a "tomboy" which was not considered respectable, as most young girls were expected to act like a proper "lady." Harper Lee liked to be alone and read. She was bullied, but she always stood up for herself. Lee also acted as a protector for others who were bullied, such as her friend, Truman Capote. Lee would later say that she and Capote were united by "common anguish"

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.

Harper Lee had a complicated relationship with her mother. Lee's mother suffered from mental illness, bipolar disorder, and was a recluse. Her mother died June 2, 1951.

Later in Harper Lee's life, she also suffered health issues, such as hearing loss, limited vision and problems with her short-term memory. Many people speculate whether Lee was actually in her right mind when her second book was published since she had zero interest in publishing the novel for years prior.

BIRTH DATE:

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

Harper Lee was born April 28, 1926.

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.

"I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what." This quote is from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and the character Atticus Finch is trying to teach his son an important lesson about courage. Finch's description of courage contradicts his son Jem's prior understanding of courage as hypermasculine and violent and instead shows him that real courage is persistence through times of difficulty.

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?

Harper Lee attended Huntington College and she transferred to the University of Alabama. She became the publication's editor of the school's humor magazine, *The Rammer Jammer*. After graduation, Lee studied at Oxford University for a year until she moved to New York to pursue writing. Harper Lee wrote the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and it was published in 1960. Its powerful depiction of racism and prejudice in the American South is widely acclaimed. It has sold more than 40 million copies worldwide. It is also a staple in most American public high schools.

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)?

Harper Lee enjoyed golfing, and once said that she did her best creative thinking while playing golf. Harper Lee also enjoyed fishing, reading, and writing. Lee is a huge fan of Jane Austen, and once said that all she wanted was to be "the Jane Austen of South Alabama."

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?

Harper Lee's most well-known friendship is that with famous author Truman Capote. They grew up together as young children and their friendship lasted for decades. Lee was also deeply influenced by her high school English teacher, Gladys Watson. Before sending a final draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to her publishers, Lee asked Watson to proofread and critique it.

THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

Intelligent Resilient Humble

DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

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

Harper Lee passed away on February 19, 2016 at age 89. She died of natural causes.