













# PREVIEW NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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?

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#### PRAISED FOR:

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

## **PREVIEW**

## CRITICIZED FOR: EDUCATIONALUS

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?

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#### 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.

## **PREVIEW**

## BIRTH DATE: FOR EDUCATIONAL US

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 successfu author? When did this person become an author? When did the author achieve fame?

#### PASSION/TALENT:

PREVIEW

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?

## PREVIEW

LOT FOR EDUCATIONAL US

THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

PREVIEW

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 Shirley Jackson (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?

Shirley Jackson was born in San Francisco. She is American and spent most of her life in the United States.

#### PRAISED FOR:

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

Shirley Jackson was an author best known for writing psychological suspense and horror. She has written short stories, novels, essays, memoirs, and children's books. Her most notable works include: "The Bird's Nest," "The Haunting of Hill House," "The Lottery," "We Have Always Lived in the Castle," and "The Sundial."

#### **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?

Shirley Jackson was sometimes criticized for the shocking subject matter of her stories. For example, in her most famous story "The Lottery," she depicts a small town's ritual where everyone, including children, must stone one unlucky villager to death. The unsettling details of her stories are not embraced by all readers.

#### 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?

Jackson was a Christian woman who married a Jewish communist, and as a result, she was faced with anti-Semitism. Her own family and community criticized their relationship. Her parents were not invited to their wedding because of their disapproval of Jackson's husband's ancestry.

#### 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.

Shirley Jackson published the novel "We Have Always Lived in the Castle" in 1962. The book explores themes of family secrets, mental illness, and societal alienation. It became a best-seller and was included in the year's "Ten Best Novels" by Time Magazine.

In 2018, "The Haunting of Hill House" was adapted into a television series on Netflix. The show received widespread acclaim and has been regarded as one of the best horror series of recent years.

#### **BIRTH DATE:**

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

Shirley Jackson was born on December 14, 1916.

#### 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.

"Lottery in June, corn be heavy soon." This quote means little out of context, but within the story of "The Lottery," it illuminates the superstitious belief that a village of people think that if they sacrifice one person every year through a lottery-like ritual, they will have a fruitful harvest and won't go hungry. Her story shows how people can blindly follow rituals without questioning the purpose or validity. Blind obedience is dangerous. Jackson's story shows that ordinary people can act inhumanly by thoughtlessly following the laws or rules put in place by authority, which also served as an allegory for the Holocaust.

#### EDUCATION AND CAREER:

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

After high school, Jackson attended the University of Rochester and then Syracuse University, graduating in 1940. She then moved to New York City to work on her writing career. Her works appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker, Redbook, The Saturday Evening Post* and *The Ladies' Home Journal*. In 1948, The New Yorker published Jackson's short story, "The Lottery" which caused quite an outrage amongst readers. People were disturbed by the ending; the story was translated into several other languages and adapted into other art forms. Today, "The Lottery" is widely considered Jackson's most beloved story because it has had a long-lasting effect on readers which explores the dangers of conformity and the darker side of human nature.

#### 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)?

Jackson was an avid cook and often wrote about food, cooking, and life as a mother in her memoir "Life Among the Savages." She was an introverted person who liked to keep to herself. She lived in a quiet rural community with her family. She preferred nature and to be far away from city life.

#### PERSONAL LIFE:

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

In 1940, Jackson married Stanley Edgar Hyman and the couple had four children: Laurence, Joanne, Sarah, and Barry.

#### THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

Reserved, Smart, Independent

#### DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

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

Shirley Jackson passed away on August 8, 1965, at the age of 48. Her death was attributed to heart failure.



Shirley Jackson was born in San Francisco. She is American and spent most of her life in the United States.

# SHIRLEY JACKSON





Shirley Jackson was an author best known for writing psychological suspense and horror. She has written short stories, novels, essays, memoirs, and noveis, essays, memoirs, and children's books. Her most notable works include "The Bird's Nest," "The Haunting of Hill House," "The Lottery," "We Have Always Lived in the Castle," and "The Sundial."



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#### **MAJOR OBSTACL**

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## **2 MAJOR LIFE EVENTS**

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In 2018, "The Haunting of Hill House" was adapted into a television series on Netflix. The show received widespread acclaim and has been regarded as one of the best horror series of recent

#### **3 ADJECTIVES**

Reserved

Smart

Independent



### **BIRTH DATE**

Shirley Jackson was born on December 14,



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