













# 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?

#### John Milton 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?

John Milton's nationality is English. He was born in London, England.

#### PRAISED FOR:

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

John Milton was an English poet, polemicist, pamphleteer, and civil servant. Milton is best known for "Paradise Lost," widely regarded as the greatest epic poem in English literature. His other notable works include: "Paradise Regained", "Samson Agonistes", "Areopagitica", "The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce", "The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates", and "A Mask Presented at Ludlow Castle."

#### **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?

Milton's writings were often criticized, specifically "The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce." This book received harsh criticism because John suggested people should get divorced if they are truly unhappy in a marriage. This idea was seen as scandalous for his era and went against prevailing social and religious norms of the time.

#### 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?

In the early 1650s, Milton began experiencing vision problems and gradually lost his sight. Despite his blindness, he continued to write, dictating his work out loud as his assistants wrote down the words. His masterpiece, "Paradise Lost," was composed during this period of blindness.

#### 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 1638, Milton embarked on a journey abroad, and traveled all around Europe. He visited France and Italy, where he met influential thinkers and writers.

In the 1640s, Milton became increasingly involved in politics. He wrote numerous political tracts, advocating for religious and civil liberties, including "Areopagitica," a defense of freedom of speech. He served as a civil servant during the Commonwealth period under Oliver Cromwell.

#### BIRTH DATE:

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

John Milton was born December 9, 1608.

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.

"He who reigns within himself and rules passions, desires, and fears is more than a king." This quote expresses Milton's opinion that inner strength and self-governance is essential to true greatness.

#### **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?

He received his early education at St. Paul's School in London, where he excelled in languages and literature. Milton was also privately tutored by Thomas Young. In 1625, Milton enrolled at Christ's College, Cambridge. He studied a range of subjects, including classics, philosophy, and theology. During his time at Cambridge, he began writing poetry and composing Latin verses. In 1629, Milton was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1632 he received a Master of Arts degree. The publication of his epic poem "Paradise Lost" in 1667 made him a familiar name. Although Milton achieved fame and recognition as a writer, it wasn't immediate. He didn't gain widespread admiration or praise until the 18th century.

#### 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)?

John Milton was passionate about politics. He vehemently opposed tyranny and statesanctioned religion. His views were thought to be shaped by his Puritan beliefs. Milton advocated for the abolition of the Church of England and the execution of Charles I.

#### 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?

In 1642, Milton married Mary Powell. They had three daughters (Anne, Mary, and Deborah) and a son (John), but he died at age one. Milton's first wife died in 1652 after giving birth. Milton later remarried Katherine Woodcock. She passed away shortly after. His last marriage was to Elizabeth Minshull which lasted until Milton's death.

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

List three personality traits that describe the author.

BRILLIANT, VISIONARY, RADICAL

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

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

John Milton passed away on November 8, 1674, in London. He died of complications from gout.

# NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



John Milton's nationality is English. He was born in London, England.

# MILTON



"He who reigns within himself and rules passions, desires, and fears is more than a king." This quote expresses Milton's opinion that inner strength and self-governance is essential to true greatness.

## DRAISED FOR

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### EDUCATION & CAREER

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# PERSONAL LIFE

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## 2 MAJOR LIFE EVENTS

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#### **3 ADJECTIVES**

BRILLIANT VISIONARY RADICAL



John Milton was born December 9, 1608.



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