













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.

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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.

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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.

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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?

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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 Sylvia Plath (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?

Sylvia Plath was an American author. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts.

PRAISED FOR:

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

Plath is a beloved poet, novelist, and short story writer. She is praised for the raw emotional depth and honesty in her work. The genre of confessional poetry is recognized for its progress due to her contributions. Her most notable works include: "The Colossus" (poetry collection), "Ariel" (poetry collection), "Daddy" (poem), "Lady Lazarus" (poem), "The Bell Jar" (novel), "Poppies in July" (poem), "Tulips" (poem), and "Mad Girl's Love Song" (poem).

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?

Some critics were uncomfortable with Plath's candid depiction of mental illness and her own struggles with depression. Her openness to write about topics like suicide raised concerns among some critics.

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?

A major obstacle for Plath was the death of her father. In 1940, when Plath was eight years old, her father died as a result of complications from diabetes. His death drastically molded Plath's relationships and served as a major inspiration for her poetry.

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.

- Plath was talented from a young age, writing poems from the age of 8. While she was still in high school, she sold her first poem to The Christian Science Monitor and her first short story to Seventeen magazine.
- Plath was awarded the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for her poetry. She was the first poet to posthumously win a Pulitzer Prize.

BIRTH DATE:

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

Sylvia Plath was born on October 27, 1932.

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.

"And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt." Plath's own writing was characterized by her boldness and willingness to explore deeply personal, painful subjects.

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?

In 1950, Plath enrolled at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She graduated in 1955 with highest honors, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Her first collection of poems, Colossus, was published in 1960 (first in England, then a couple of years later in the United States). Plath's most famous work was Ariel, written in 1962, but published posthumously in 1965. In 1962, Plath published a semi-autobiographical novel, The Bell Jar, under the pseudonym Victoria Lucas. The Bell Jar was reissued in Great Britain under her own name in 1966, and it was published in the United States for the first time in 1971.

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)?

Sylvia had an interest in bees and took up beekeeping. Sylvia's father, Otto Plath, had been an expert on bumble bees. Plath even wrote a few poems about Bees.

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?

Plath married the poet Ted Hughes on June 16, 1956. They had two children together, Frieda and Nicholas. Hughes left her for another woman, and that led to the inspiration of her book Ariel.

THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

E CANDID, BRILLIANT, DEEP AL US

DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

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

Plath suffered from severe depression, attempted suicide, and underwent a period of psychiatric hospitalization. She killed herself on February 11, 1963 through carbon monoxide poisoning. She was only 30 years old. Many of Plath's posthumous publications were anthologized by her estranged husband Ted Hughes—and despite the fact that they were separated, he was still the executor of her estate. It was controversial when he confessed that he destroyed her last journal written prior to her suicide.

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DRAISED FOR

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CANDID

BRILLIANT

DEEP



BIRTH DATE



DEATHDATE

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