











# 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.

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### 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:

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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

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THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

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DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

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

### Agatha Christie Answer Key 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?

Agatha Christie was British. She was born in Torquay, Devon, in the southwest part of England.

### PRAISED FOR:

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

Christie is a renowned author of detective novels. is considered to be the best-selling novelist of all time, with an estimated 2 billion copies of her books sold worldwide. She is often cited as a master of the mystery genre.

### 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?

Though, Christie's stories are known for their compelling detectives and colorful suspects, some critics accuse Christie of using repetitive themes and formulaic, unoriginal characters.

#### 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?

Agatha Christie's father, Frederick Alvah Miller, died on September 24, 1901, when Agatha was 11 years old. Her father's death had a significant impact on her life and would later influence her writing. She was very close with her father, and she credits him for instilling her love of reading and writing. Christie turned to storytelling as a form of grief.

### 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.

- 1. Both World War I and World War II had a significant impact on Agatha Christie's life and work. During both World Wars, she served in hospital dispensaries, either as a nurse, a dispenser, or pharmacy assistant. She wanted to support those who were fighting and to help alleviate the suffering of the wounded. Her experiences during these conflicts shaped her worldview, influenced her writing, and are an important part of her legacy as an author.
- 2. In 1926, Agatha disappeared for 11 days, which became a highly publicized event after her husband Archie asked for a divorce. More than a thousand police officers, 15,000 volunteers, and several airplanes searched the rural landscape. She was found in a hotel using a false name. Two doctors diagnosed her with "an unquestionable genuine loss of memory" but many still speculate what actually occurred whether it was a nervous breakdown, or an attempt to embarrass her husband.

#### BIRTH DATE:

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

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born on September 15, 1890.

#### 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 like living. I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, racked with sorrow, but through it all, I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing." This quote is from her autobiography, which she was secretly writing. It was published after her death in November 1977.

### **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?

Agatha Christie was homeschooled by her mother for a long period of time. At age 16, she moved to Paris to study arts and language. She never attended college, but she did sit on a few lectures at Oxford University. She became famous after her novel The Mysterious Affair at Styles was published in 1920. This launched her career. She wrote 66 detective novels, 14 short story collections, and several plays, many of which have been adapted into movies, TV series, and stage productions.

### 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)?

Agatha loved story-telling and taught herself to read at only five years old. She also loved singing, dancing, gardening, and was proficient at playing the piano. She loved loved traveling. She often accompanied her husband Max on his archaelogolical expeditions in the Middle East. She loved mystery and was a member of the Detection Club, a group made up of British mystery writers.

#### 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?

She married her first husband Archibald Christie in 1914 and had one had a daughter named Rosalind. They divorced in 1928. Agatha later married archaeologist Max Mallowan in 1930, and they remained together until her death in 1976.

### THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

Detail-oriented, brilliant, imaginative

### DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

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

Christie died on January 12, 1976 of natural causes, at age 85.

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