**Body Biography Scoring Guide**

A Body Biography should demonstrate thorough understanding of the literary work, insight into the character and creativity in depicting that insight. Quotes are carefully selected and properly attributed. The original text is interesting and informative. Knowledge above and beyond summary or online shortcuts is evident in every detail.

An **A** Body Biography:

* Contains all 4 body biography requirements (a review of significant happenings of the

work, visual symbols, an original text, five most important quotes from the work)

* Is an accurate depiction of the character (based on evidence from the play)
* Creatively represents character traits and actions
* Exemplifies ideas or issues that go beyond the text (gender issues, marital and love

issues, gang and family loyalty issues, issues of violence) and stimulates discussion

during your presentation

* Prepared to explain and answer questions about you body biography during your

presentation

A **B** Body Biography:

* Contains all 4 body biography requirements
* Is an accurate depiction of character
* Character traits and actions are represented, but not very creatively
* Touches on ideas or issues that go beyond the text
* Somewhat prepared to explain and answer questions about your body biography

during your presentation

A **C** Body Biography:

* Contains only 3 body biography requirements
* Does not accurately depict the character, or is limited and superficial
* Character traits and actions are not represented creatively. They seem thrown together

and not thought out.

* Does not connect to ideas or issues that go beyond the text
* Not prepared to explain or answer questions about your body biography during your

presentation

A **D/F** Body Biography:

* Contains less than 3 body biography requirements
* Does not depict the character beyond SparkNotes or other such sources
* Character traits and actions are cliché
* Does not demonstrate knowledge of the text
* Unable to explain or answer questions about your body biography during your

presentation

**Body Biography**

Trace a group member’s body outline on a sheet of paper and then cut the paper off of the roll. Every group should do this once.

Choose colors, graphics, designs carefully. Place the following:

**Heart**: What represents the heart of the person and where should it be placed to identify what the person loves most? What should it look like and what shape, color, pictures, or symbols should be included?

**Eyes:** Where is this person’s focus? What does this person see (*as in I see you* in Na’vi).

**Backbone**: What motivates this person the most? What gives them strength?

**Hands**: What does this person hold in their hands – literal and figurative?

**Feet**: On what foundation is this person standing? What are their fundamental life beliefs?

**The Background**: what elements make up this person’s environment/background

**Quotations**: Quotes by or about this person that you feel represent them

**Virtues and Vices**: Admirable and unadvisable qualities of this person

**Original Text**: Create an original text that helps understand this person and include it somewhere appropriate on the body biography. Formula poem, paragraph, etc.

**The Body Biography**

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For your chosen character, your group will be creating a body biography – a visual and written portrait illustrating several aspects of the character’s life within the literary work.

Obviously, begin by drawing in the outline of the body. I have listed some possibilities for your body biography, but feel free to come up with your own creations. As always, the choices you make should be based on the text, for you will be verbally explaining (and thus, in a sense, defending) them. Above all, your choices should be creative, analytical, and accurate.

After completing this portrait, you will participate in a “showing” in which you will present your “masterpiece” to the class. This “showing” should accomplish the following objectives:

* Review us on the literary work that involves your character
* Communicate to us the full essence of your character by emphasizing the traits that make the character unique
* Promote discussion of your character

**Body Biography Requirements**

Although I expect your biography to contain additional dimensions, your portrait must contain:

* A review of the work’s events (don’t take all references from one oart of the work)
* Visual symbols
* An original text
* The five most important quotes (either exposition or dialogue) relating to your character (be sure to attribute correctly and annotate)

**Body Biography Suggestions**

**Placement --** Carefully choose the placement of your text and artwork. For example, the area where your character’s heart would be might be appropriate for illustrating the important relationships within his/her life. The hands might refer to actions or accomplishments of the character.

**Spine --** Actors often discuss a character’s “spine.” This is his/her objective within the work. What is the most important goal for your character? What drives his/her thoughts and actions? The answers to these questions are his/her “spine.” How can you illustrate it?

**Virtues and Vices --** What are your character’s most admirable qualities? His/her worst? How can you make us visualize them?

**Color --** Colors are often symbolic. What color(s) do you most associate with your character? Why? How can you effectively weave these colors into your presentation?

**Symbols --** What objects can you associate with your character that illustrate his/her essence? Are there objects mentioned within the work itself that you could use? If not, choose objects that especially seem to correspond with the character.

**Formula Poems --** These are fast, but effective “recipes” for producing a text because they are designed to reveal much about a character. (See below for suggestions).

**Mirror, Mirror --** Consider both how your character appears to others on the surface and what you know about the character’s inner self. Do these images clash or correspond? What does this tell you about the character? How can you illustrate this mirror image?

**Changes --** How has your character changed within the work? Trace these changes within your text and/or artwork.