

Body Biography

You will be creating a Body Biography--a visual and written portrait illustrating several aspects of a character's life within the novel. You may use the novel for help.

Choose a character from *The Education of Little Tree* that you will use to complete this assignment. You may choose Little Tree, Granpa, Granma, Pine Billy, or the little sharecropper girl. Then you will write three paragraphs about this character. The information from the paragraphs will then be placed on a body template.

Part I - Writing

Paragraph 1 - Visual Symbols— Create at least three symbols that represent significant personality traits or important things in this person's life. For example, you might use a light bulb to show how the character has good ideas. Each symbol from the paragraph will be placed on the drawing in a meaningful place. For example, you might draw one object close to the character's heart if it symbolizes something he/she loves or feels; around the head if it symbolizes what a character thinks; on the hands if symbolizes his/her work; etc. The paragraph should identify each symbol, explain what it represents, where you plan to place it on the body template, and why you chose to place it there. Be sure to use a topic sentence and a closing sentence.

Paragraph 2 - Quotations - Choose at least three quotations from the novel which reveal personality traits of your character. These do not have to be things the character actually says but could be part of the narration or what another character says about him/her. These quotations will also be placed on the body template in a significant place like the symbols from Paragraph 1. In your paragraph, write the exact sentence(s) from the book, explain what each quotation reveals about the character's personality, and explain where you will place the quote on the drawing and why. Be sure to use a topic sentence and a closing sentence.

Paragraph 3 - Symbolic Colors- On the body template, you will add hair, clothing, a face, and any other decorations you think apply to the character. The colors you choose for these decorations should be symbolic of the character's personality. Use the color symbolism chart to help you choose the best colors for your character. Use at least three colors. In your paragraph, describe the colors you will use and how those colors apply to your character's personality. Be sure to use a topic sentence and a closing sentence.

Part II - Visual Presentation

On the body template provided, draw and write the information from your three paragraphs - three symbols, three quotations, and symbolic colors. Remember the symbols and quotations should be placed in significant places as stated in your paragraphs. Make your body biography creative and colorful, and be sure it contains the specific information from the novel about your character! Have fun! Create a product for which you (and I) will be proud!

Body Biography Rubric

Student Name _____

Grade _____

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Score
Content (RL1 & RL2)	-Creatively depicts/describes character -Reveals deep understanding of character 10 - 9 points	-Accurately depicts/describes character -Reveals satisfactory understanding of character 8 - 6 points	-Accurately depicts/describes character -Reveals some understanding of character 5 - 3 points	-Accurately depicts/describes character -Reveals limited understanding of character 2 - 1 points	
Organization	-Maintains a clear, distinctive focus throughout entire writing -Successfully constructs strong, effective paragraphs 10 - 9 points	-Maintains a clear, distinctive focus throughout most of writing -Constructs strong, effective paragraphs 8 - 6 points	-Focus of writing is often unclear -Some paragraphs lack structure 5 - 3 points	-Focus of writing is unclear -Most paragraphs lack structure 2 - 1 points	
Style (W1 & W2)	-Actively engages the audience -Extensively uses precise word choice, sensory details, & active voice 5 points	-Often engages the audience -Effectively uses precise word choice, sensory details, & active voice 4 points	-Occasionally engages the audience -Uses precise word choice, sensory details, & active voice 3 points	-Rarely engages the audience -Rarely uses precise word choice, sensory details, & active voice 2 - 1 points	
Conventions (C1)	-No errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or sentence formation 5 points	-Few errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or sentence formation 4 points	-Many errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence formation 3 points	-Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence formation 2 - 1 points	

EOLT Body Biography Example Vera from "The Open Window"

Paragraph 1

I chose a light bulb, a clock, and a heart for Vera's symbols. The light bulb represents her creative imagination. In "The Open Window," Vera makes up two very detailed and elaborate tales about Mr. Sappleton and the two brothers' disappearance. She also makes up a story about Mr. Nuttle's fear of dogs due to his entrapment in a hollow grave. I placed the light bulb next to her head because these ideas originate in her brain. I chose the clock because Vera is able to make up these wild lies at a moment's notice. In no time, she can concoct a believable story, because "Romance at short notice was her specialty." The clock is located by her head because her brain works quickly to think of these lies, and the lies spew forth quickly from her mouth without hesitation. Finally, I chose to draw a large heart around most her body because Vera is self-centered. In general, she cares only about herself and doesn't mind hurting others.

Paragraph 2

Three quotations from "The Open Window" describe Vera's personality perfectly. She is "a very self-possessed young lady of fifteen"(541). This quote is an example of direct characterization that reveals important information about her. We know that she does not care about other people's feelings. I put the quote next to her heart because she loves herself and is cold-hearted to others. "Then you know practically nothing about my aunt?"(541) is an additional quotation that gives insight into Vera's personality. She is inquisitive and quickly gathers information from people to use in her tales. She asks Mr. Nuttle about his knowledge of the family so that she can form her story. Since he doesn't know anything about them, she can tell the tale of the tragedy. This quotation is located around her head because she asks the question to formulate her story. The final quotation, "Romance at short notice was her specialty"(544) is the key to the whole story. This piece of information let the reader know that Vera made up both stories because she enjoys lying. I put the quotation around her head because she made up these stories in her head. All three of these quotations help the reader understand the self-centered, lying girl that Vera really is.

Paragraph 3

I used several colors to symbolize Vera's personality. Yellow is the dominate color of her dress because it symbolizes imagination, dishonesty, betrayal, and deceit. Vera definitely has imagination to come up with so many creative stories. She displays dishonesty, betrayal, and deceit when she tells Mr. Nuttle the tale of tragedy. The dress is trimmed in orange, which symbolizes a demand for attention. Vera is described as "self-possessed," so she obviously tells the stories to draw focus to herself. The large heart is red for love because Vera loves herself. Her hair is black, which means evilness. Her eyes are blue to symbolize the coldness she shows to other by lying to them. Each color on the template reveals various aspects of Vera's self-centered personality.