

BODY BIOGRAPHY

Students trace an outline of one group member's body on the paper.

Each group then chooses the best way to represent the following aspects of the character symbolically, offering written justifications for each symbol:

Characters should be clothed

The Heart: Where should it be placed to best represent what this character loves most? What should it look like and what shape, color, pictures, or symbols should be included in it? If the character's love changes, then students should find a way to represent this visually.

The Spine: This should be represented in a way that visually conveys what motivates the character most. For example, students have represented Antigone's backbone as a chain connecting the word 'gods' at the top and 'people' at the bottom.

The Hands: What does the character hold in her or his hands? Items that are associated with the character either literally or figuratively should be included. Students have represented Ophelia as holding a handful of flowers, for example, and Creon holding a scroll with the words "MAN'S LAW" clutched in his fist.

The Feet: On what is the character standing? This should be a symbolic representation of the character's most fundamental beliefs about life. King Lear, for example, has been portrayed standing on a crumbling rock labeled "respect for the elderly."

The Background: Students should draw some elements that suggest the character's environment, background, or predicament.

Quotations: Students should place on the poster five direct quotations from the story (with proper citations) that sum up the character and add to an understanding of the character.

Eyes – Seeing through the character's eyes – What memorable sights affect him? How?

Ears – Hearing through the character's ears – What does he notice and remember others saying to him? How is he affected?

Nose – Smelling through the character's nose – What smells affect him? How?

Mouth – The character's communication – What philosophy does the character share/espouse? What arguments/debates? **What song would symbolize the character's philosophy of life? What lyrics/images from the song would symbolize his philosophy?**

Arms – Working – What is the character's relationship to work in general? To specific work?

Character Poem: See attached

When the groups have finished, they display their Body Biography and present it to the class. Their presentations should explain the choices they made and help the class understand the meaning of the symbols they have created.

Found Poem

One of the ways to understand the tone or mood of a piece of literature is to use words from the text to create an original poem. To create a Found Poem, readers select and combine memorable words and phrases from a text to create or “find” a poem. The reader also attains a stronger sense of the value of words in creating mood in a story. This should be at least fifteen lines.

Objectives:

By completing this assignment, you will:

- *recognize the importance of mood and tone

- *combine words used in the text to synthesize them into your own poem about a particular character

To create a Found Poem:

- *Look at the sample of a Found Poem for Chapter Four of *Frankenstein*.

- *Look at chapters ____ - ____ of the novel, or in chapters where your chosen character is prevalent.

- *Your focus for the poem will be development of character.

- *Select words and phrases that relate to your focus and write them down on a piece of paper.

- *Combine the words and phrases you have written into poetic form (lines and stanzas).

- *Reduce these lines, if necessary, to create a more concise and focused poem.

- ****You cannot add words to your poem that are not in the original book, but you may remove words and change the original context of the words to create your poem.***

- *You may repeat key words and phrases for emphasis.

EXAMPLE:

Chapter Four of *Frankenstein*

BOLD QUESTION

Whence did the principle of life proceed?

Alone

in one pursuit—

the pursuit of knowledge

I found continual food for discovery and wonder,

alone

labor and fatigue

my soul occupation

the energy of my purpose alone sustained me.

When did the principle of life proceed?

Lifeless matter

profane fingers

food for the worms

corruption of the body

from the midst of darkness, a sudden light broke in upon me.

Secret knowledge

the summit of my desires

supreme delight

alone

a slow fever

nervous

shuned

guilty

I AM NOT A MADMAN.