

Short Story Unit Project: Group Presentation on Theme and Character

You will have the freedom to choose your group of **3 to 4 people**. CHOOSE WISELY. Although there will be a base group mark, depending on your teacher's observations of how students use class time to work and on an individual self-reflection, your actual mark can fluctuate up or down from the rest of your group.

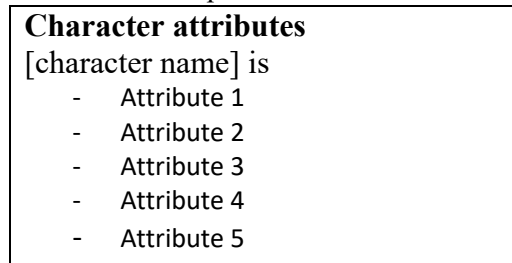
➔➔➔ Guiding questions for this project: ←←←

- 1) What **attributes** make characters relatable to readers?
- 2) How does an author support **theme**?

Task 🗨️ Make a visual presentation (PowerPoint, Prezi, Google Slides) with the following standards:

- **Between 8-12 slides and about 5 minutes long** → DO NOT add a name and title or "thank you for listening" slide to meet the requirements
- **Uses colours and fonts that are legible to your audience** → do not use curling or other difficult to read fonts for the whole thing, and do not choose all light/dark colours.
- **Assign responsibilities for slides to group members** → everyone must share the work, even talking!
- **Do not fill slides with images unless necessary** → that meme you think is funny but has nothing to do with the story will definitely hurt your group mark, for example.

Good slide example ✓



Unsatisfactory slide example ✗



For your slides:

- 1) As a group, **choose TWO characters from different stories**. Do not focus only on protagonists or characters that have no real attributes, such as Paul's father in "The Rocking Horse Winner".
 - You MUST get approval from your teacher before continuing on with analysis of these characters. This is to prevent overlap or choosing underdeveloped characters.
- 2) **Analyse** the characters by choosing character attributes.
- 3) **Find text evidence** that supports those attributes.
 - **Note:** you are NOT writing a character analysis. Think of this part as quotes in your outline, so you DO need page numbers.
- 4) **Compare** your two characters. **Hint:** a Venn diagram is helpful. There are Venn diagram generators online that you can use.
- 5) **Discuss the relatability of your characters**
 - What can the audience appreciate, dislike, learn about or from these characters?
 - Consider the purpose of the character.
- 6) **Next, choose ONE story and write the theme statement** → You may NOT copy ones that we did in our class or other classes, nor can you use anything that you find online.
 - You will need ITA and the actual statement
 - **You also need quotes and literary devices** that support the theme (check supporting theme analysis sheet). **You will need AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT DEVICES.**

You will receive class time to do this, but not that much time.

Communicate well, use your time wisely, and talk to your teacher if there are issues. NO extensions due to time. **If you are unsure, ASK!**

Presentation dates: *either* **November 26** or **November 28** (NOT negotiable) in class

This project is worth 30% of your term 1 mark.

Presentation rubrics

Individual

/6

	6-5	5-4	4-3	3-0
Eye contact and body language /3	Student makes sure to look around the room while speaking, doesn't read off screen/script, faces audience, hands don't fidget/stay in pockets	Student makes sure to look around the room while speaking, may read off screen/script at times, mostly faces audience, hands don't fidget/stay in pockets	Student doesn't look around the room while speaking, reads off screen/script often, doesn't face audience, hands sometimes fidget/stay in pockets	Student doesn't look up while speaking, reads off screen/script, doesn't face audience, hands fidget/stay in pockets
Voice and readiness /3	Student's voice is loud, has inflection, pauses whenever necessary, projects well, pronounces words properly, sounds practiced	Student's voice is loud, has some inflection, may pause unnaturally, projects, pronounces most words properly, may need more practice speaking	Student's voice lacks volume and inflection at times, pauses unnaturally, doesn't always project well, mispronounces 4+ words, needs practice	Student's voice lacks volume and inflection, pauses unnaturally, doesn't project well, mispronounces many words, did not practice

Group

/21

	6-5	5-4	4-3	3-0
Organisation, mechanics, and visual /3	Explanations presented in an orderly manner, ideas link and flow well, slides are proofread for spelling and grammar, slides are legible and neat	Explanations presented in an orderly manner, flow well, slides may contain 2-3 spelling or grammar errors, slides are mostly legible and neat	Explanations presented in some order, ideas don't always flow well, slides are not proofread for spelling and grammar, slides are not legible or neat enough	Explanations are disorganised, make no sense, are unrelated; slides are not proofread, may use unnecessary graphics, font/colours difficult to read
Character analysis, comparison, character relatability /12	Analysis uses at least 3 strong attributes with sufficient textual evidence to support, thoughtful comparison and relatability	Analysis uses 3(+) attributes but may be weak at times, has evidence to support, comparison and relatability is adequate	Analysis lacks attributes or uses weak ones, may lack enough textual evidence, is somewhat lacking in comparison and relatability	Analysis is weak or incorrect, may lack textual evidence or uses misleading evidence, is lacking in comparison and relatability
Theme /6	Theme statement is unique, thorough, and uses correct vocabulary to show understanding; literary devices fully support theme; evidence of literary devices is thoughtful	Theme statement offers some insight into the story; uses mostly correct vocabulary to demonstrate understanding of theme	Theme statement may be too general or narrow; vocabulary used does not fully demonstrate understanding of theme	Theme statement is incomplete or incorrect or offers no insight; vocabulary used does not demonstrate understanding of theme

Total: _____/27

Helpful tips gathered from previous students who did not succeed in previous years:

- Use your class time wisely. This is the only guaranteed time you will have to meet your group.
- If there is tension in your group, communicate, or talk to your teacher.
- Leaving things to the last minute will hurt you. **There is no time to redo or reschedule.**
- Either not helping your group or doing most of the work will hurt you. Share everything as evenly as possible. If you think there's nothing for you to do, **ask your group if you can help with something!**
- PRACTICE SPEAKING ALOUD! If you don't know how to pronounce a word, ASK.
- Email your PPT or Slides link to your teacher ahead of time to see if it works.
- **ANY plagiarism will result in your entire team receiving ZERO.** Why? Because you're all supposed to *communicate* and work together. It's better to get something wrong and lose some marks than risk an entire project. It's nobody's job to tell you that you copied.
- **Reminder:** failure to work on your part will reflect both on your group and you as an individual.