

Assignment:

For your assigned character, your group will be creating a body biography—a visual and written portrait illustrating several aspects of the character's life within “Phaethon” or “Arachne.”

What is a body biography?

A body biography is a combination of artwork and writing (quotations from the book and your own explanations of those quotes). You will decorate your body biography with these things in order to demonstrate your understanding of your assigned character. Please note: your body biography is not suppose to be a literal representation of what the character looks like. Instead it should be more like a giant collage of written ideas, drawings, and symbols that work together to show the class how well you understand your character, but you should also be CREATIVE!

What is the purpose?

The purpose behind creating a body biography is to allow you to take a **DEEP** look at one character from “Phaethon or “Arachne.” **You will have to review significant events, choices that your character made, and changes that your character went through internally within the course of the narrative.** You will have to take a serious look into what makes your character tick—what your character’s motivations are, how your character feels about him or herself at the beginning of the book, and how those feelings may have changed by the end of the book.

What should be included?

Using your large sheet of paper:

- **Step 1:** Write the character’s name at the top of your paper and gather information about your character from the story. Surround the character’s body with at least 10 adjectives you would use to describe them.
- **Step 2:** Represent the following aspects of your character symbolically on the body silhouette:
 - ❖ **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 what the character loves changes, find a way to represent this visually.
 - ❖ **The Backbone** – This should be presented in a way that visually conveys what motivates the character most.
 - ❖ **The Hands** – What does the character hold in her or his hands? Items that are associated with the character either literally or symbolically should be included.
 - ❖ **The Feet** – What does the character stand for or believe in? This should be a symbolic representation of the character’s most important beliefs about life.

- ❖ **The Background** – Include elements that depict the character's environment, background, or situation.
- ❖ **Quotations** – Near the character's head, place two or three direct quotations from the story that best describe and differentiate your character from the others in the story.

After completing this portrait, you will report to the class. This should accomplish these objectives:

- ✓ ***Discuss what makes the character either round or flat. Decide whether the character is static or dynamic.**
- ✓ A review of significant events, choices, and changes involving your character.
- ✓ Communicate to the class the full essence of your character by emphasizing traits.
- ✓ Promote discussion of your character.

- **Step 3:** On a separate sheet of paper, write at least three well-crafted paragraphs explaining the evidence for what you drew for each part of your character. Be prepared to share your work with the class.