

Paper Bag Character Study



Paper Bag Character Study

"It's in the Bag" Teacher Instructions

This assignment is the perfect summative assignment for studying character or characterization, and is a great alternative to the traditional book report. It can be used with students' independent reading, a novel study, literature circles, or a class read aloud.

For this assignment, students study, analyse and report on different aspects of the main character in the book they are reading. You should supply each student with a lunch-size paper bag (the ones with the flat bottoms work best because they will be filling their bags with objects).

Give students the instruction sheet, success criteria (can also be posted in the classroom), and graphic organizer or assignment sheets (you can either have students write up their own answers using only the graphic organizer and creating their own good copies for the panels, or use the pre-made squares with borders for students to answer in, then cut out and glue to panels of the bag). The rubric should be read and discussed prior to starting assignment (can also be posted in the classroom). For best results, sections should be completed on blank paper and then glued onto the paper bag.

The 10 items that students include inside the bag could be items that the character has or wants, items that change the character or the plot, or items that symbolize the character. I have also included 10 cards for the items that students can use - completing these cards may make it easier for students when (if) they present their projects to classmates.

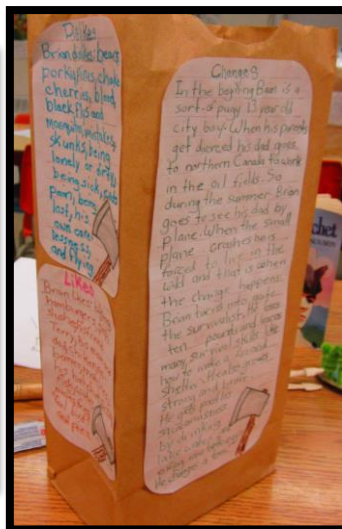
For assessment I have included a student success criteria sheet, formal rubric, and a peer feedback form for the presentation.



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To see how I used this assignment in my classroom, you can read my blog post:

<http://rundesroom.blogspot.com/2011/04/its-in-bag.html>



Paper Bag Character Study

"It's in the Bag" Student Instructions

Character: _____ Book: _____

For this assignment, you will need to choose a character from your text. Be sure to choose a rich, memorable character - it will make it much easier to complete your assignment. You will need a paper bag to complete this assignment.

This assignment has several components:

- On the front panel of your paper bag, draw your character. You may wish to use the templates provided, or draw your own picture.
- On one of the side panels, write about your character's likes and dislikes. Include one paragraph for each and use supporting evidence from the text.
- On the other side panel, write about how other characters in the text react and interact with your character. Again, don't forget to use at least 3 pieces of supporting evidence from the text.
- On the back panel, explain how your character changed throughout the text. What was your character like at the beginning of the text? At the end? Why did your character change? Include strong supporting evidence from the text.
- Inside your bag, include 10 items that you would associate with your character. Be prepared to explain and defend your choices in the oral presentation. Dig deep into the novel and your thinking for these items. The better the item, the better your mark.
- Oral presentation - You will be asked to orally present your assignment. In your assignment, explain who your character is, and what text he or she is from. Briefly explain your information on the two side panels and back panel (DO NOT READ your information - just give us a quick summary). Show us the 10 items you chose to put in your bag. Explain why you chose these items and why they are important to your character.

Assignment Due Date: _____



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"It's in the Bag" planning organizer

Character: _____ Book: _____

Front Panel

- *What does your character look like?*
- *What kind of clothes would he or she wear?*

Side Panel

- *What are your character's likes? How do you know?*
- *What are your character's dislikes? How do you know?*

Side Panel

- *How do other characters interact with your character? Is your character well-liked, protected, disliked? How do you know?*
- *How does your character interact with others? Is he or she confident, unsure, funny, loyal, etc.? How do you know?*

Back Panel

- *How has your character changed throughout the book? How do you know?*
- *What caused these changes to the character?*

10 Items (Why are you including these items?)

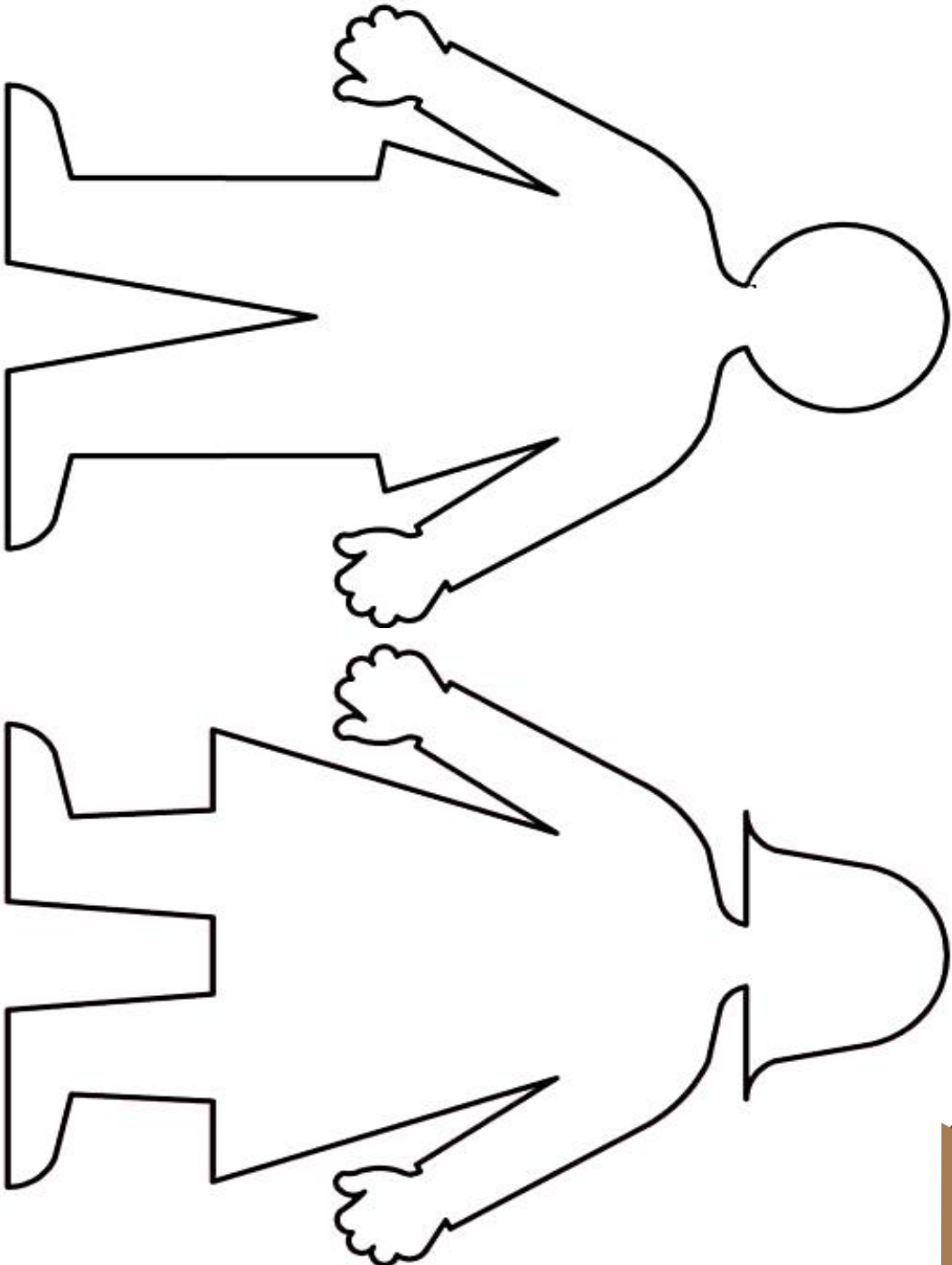


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Front panel

Character: _____ Book: _____

Decorate one of the templates provided to resemble your character (or you can choose to draw your own). Cut out and glue to the front panel of your paper bag. The front panel of your paper bag should also contain the book title, author, and character name.



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Side Panels

Character: _____ Book: _____

Fully answer the questions on the panels, using supporting evidence from the text. Cut out each rectangle and glue to the side panels of your paper bag.

- What are your character's likes? How do you know?
- What are your character's dislikes? How do you know?
- What traits does your character possess?

- How do other characters interact with your character? Is your character well-liked, protected, disliked? How do you know?
- How does your character interact with others? Is he or she confident, unsure, funny, loyal, etc.? How do you know?

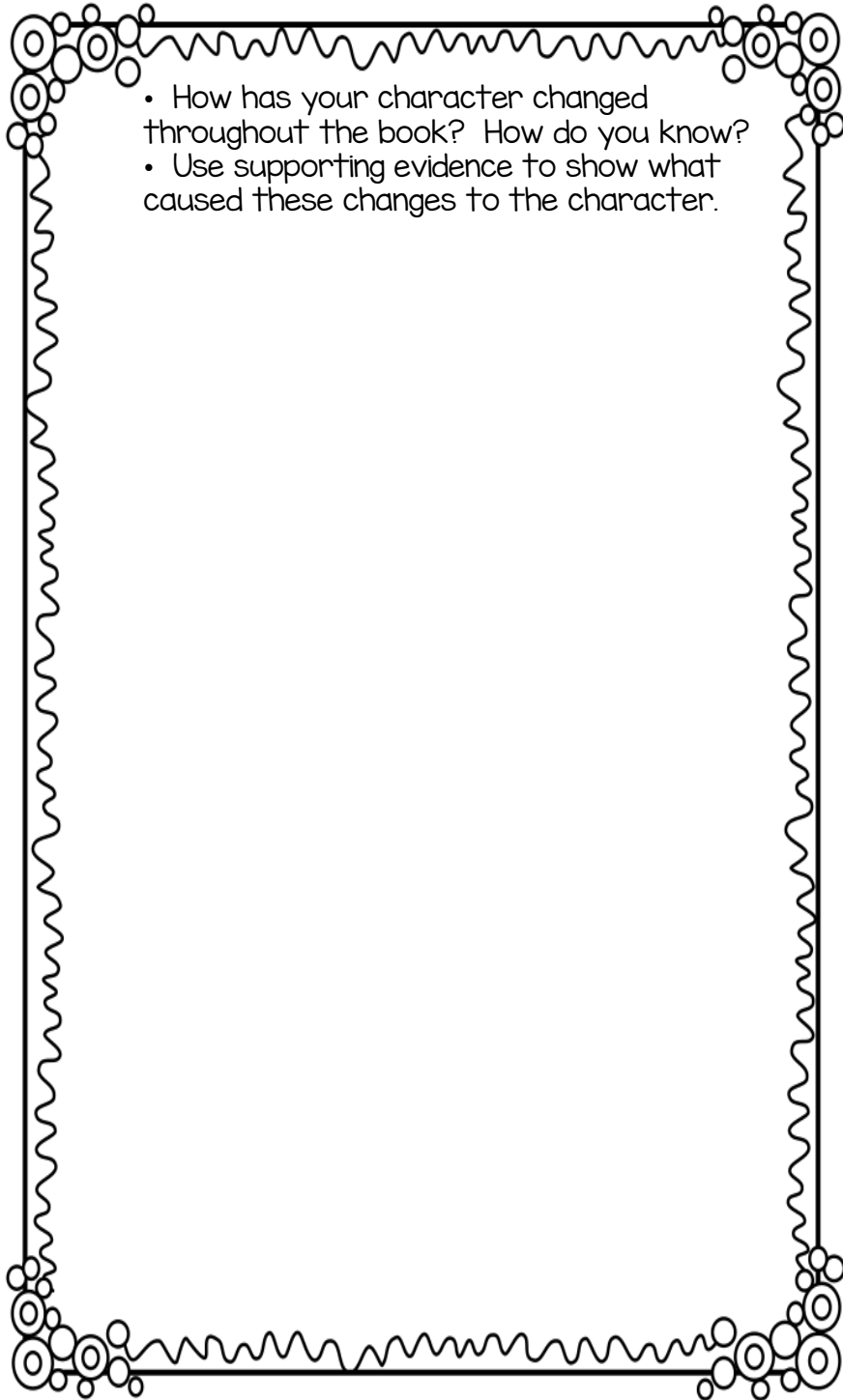


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Back panel

Character: _____ Book: _____

Fully answer the question on the panel, using supporting evidence from the text. Cut out the rectangle and glue to the back panel of your paper bag.



- How has your character changed throughout the book? How do you know?
- Use supporting evidence to show what caused these changes to the character.



Paper Bag Character Study Inside the Bag

Character: _____ Book: _____

Fill in one card for each object you place in the bag. You need to include 10 objects altogether. Try to choose interesting objects and symbols to represent your character. For example, if your character has lived a rather protected life, and never takes any risks, you may choose to include a small box to represent how "boxed in" the character is.

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...



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Inside the Bag

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Object: _____

This represents my character because ...

Paper Bag Character Study

"It's in the Bag" Success Criteria

Character: _____ Book: _____

- I used details from the text to describe my character (looks, likes and dislikes, how other characters react and interact with the character, and how the character changed throughout the novel).
- I wrote in complete sentences.
- I used at least 2 pieces of supporting evidence from the text and my own thinking in each question I answered.
- I used proper punctuation, capital letters, and grammar.
- I used proper spelling.
- I chose rich words and used great vocabulary.
- I used color to make my project more visually appealing.
- I chose 10 deep and interesting objects to include in the bag.
- I can explain and present my project without simply reading what I wrote to the class.
- I will use a loud voice and correct grammar when I present my assignment to the class.



Paper Bag Character Presentation Peer Feedback

Student Presenting: _____ Feedback by: _____

Criteria:	Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Student made eye contact with audience members.			
Voice level was appropriate and could be heard through the room.			
Presentation seemed natural - not read from a sheet.			
Chosen objects were interesting and well explained.			

Two Stars and a Wish:



Wish:



Paper Bag Character Presentation Peer Feedback

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Presentation seemed natural - not read from a sheet.			
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Two Stars and a Wish:



Wish:



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"It's in the Bag" Assessment Rubric

Name: _____ Character: _____

Criteria	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Content	Includes few details from the text to support thinking. Details are used with limited accuracy.	Includes some details from the text to support thinking. Details are used with some accuracy.	Includes many details from the text to support thinking. Details are used with considerable accuracy.	Includes many rich details from the text to support thinking. Details are used with a high degree of accuracy.
Appearance	Little time, care and effort spent on assignment. Limited use of color and creativity.	Some time, care and effort spent on assignment. Some use of color and creativity.	Considerable time, care and effort spent on assignment. Good use of color and creativity.	Extensive time, care and effort spent on assignment. Excellent use of color and creativity.
Conventions	Many errors in spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and capitalization.	Some errors in spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and capitalization.	Few errors in spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and capitalization.	Almost no errors in spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and capitalization.
Oral Presentation	Limited use of eye contact with audience. Volume of voice is too quiet most of the time. Limited audience engagement.	Some use of eye contact with audience. Volume of voice is too quiet some of the time. Some audience engagement.	Good use of eye contact with audience. Volume of voice is appropriate most of the time. Considerable audience engagement.	Excellent use of eye contact with audience. Volume of voice is appropriate all of the time. A high degree of audience engagement.

Overall Comments:



Thank-you so much for downloading one of my resources. I sincerely hope you and your students ENJOY!



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Credits:

