**Grade 9 English I**

***Kindred***

**Body Biography**

**09/09/13**

For your chosen character, your group will be creating a body-biography. This is a **visual** and

**written** portrait illustrating several aspects of the character’s life within the novel. Usually

students trace someone in the group and use this outline to represent the character. Drawings and

writings are both inside and surrounding the character.

You have many possibilities for filling up your giant sheet of paper. Listed are several ideas, but

you are encouraged to come up with your own. The choices **must** be based on the text because

you will be explaining them at a showing of your work. Above all, your choices should be

creative, analytical, and accurate.

When presenting or showing your work to the class certain objectives must be accomplished.

Your body-biography should:

• Review significant events, choices and changes involving your character

• Communicate to us the full essence of your character by emphasizing the traits the maker

her/him who s/he is

• Promote discussion of your character

**Body Biography Requirements**

Your portrait must contain:

• A review of significant happenings in the novel

• Visual symbols

• An original text, such as in imagined letter written by your character

• Your character’s three most important lines from the novel

**Body Biography Suggestions**

1. Placement-Think about where symbols and dialogue are placed. For example, the area

where your character’s heart would be might be appropriate for illustrating the important

relationships within his or her life.

2. Spine-A character’s spine is his/her objective within the play. What is the most important

goal for your character? What drives his/her thoughts and actions? This is her/his spine.

3. Virtues and Vices-What are your character’s most admirable and worst qualities? How

can you visualize them?

4. Color-Colors are often symbolic. What color(s) do you most associate with your

character? Why? How can these be effectively presented in your body biography?

5. Symbols-What objects can you associate with your character that illustrate her/his

essence? Are there objects mentioned in the play or additional ones that seem to

correspond with the character?

6. Mirror, Mirror-Consider both how your character appears to others on the surface and

what you know about the character’s inner self. Do these images clash or correspond?

What does this tell you about the character?

7. Changes-How has your character changed within the novel? Visualize or trace these

changes.