

Literary Trading Card Assignment — Introduction to Literature Series

The Assignment:

You will create a literary trading card for either the author, literary work, genre, or movement that you have chosen (no overlap please). Think of the trading card like a Pokemon Card or MAGIC or a baseball card ([examples here](#)). Every card must have the following elements:

- 1) The name or title of the subject
- 2) The birth and death dates / or the date of publication / Start and end of movement/genre
- 3) A list of major works for an author, or a list of major characters for a work/ elements or ideas for a genre or movement
- 4) A picture of the author, or a picture that represents the work— the picture should be no bigger than about ¼ of the card (do not use it as filler).
- 5) A paragraph summary of the life of the author and one or two of his major themes, or a summary of the work/genre and its major themes.
- 6) Strengths—What makes this work a classic? Or what makes this author a major writer? What makes the Genre/movement unique from all the others? What makes it cool? (you can have fun with this, but base it in reality)
- 7) Weaknesses — what is the drawback to this work or author (for example: Melville can be hard to read at points, and he though he writes great novels, his poetry is horrible). What criticisms can one say about it? where are its shortcomings?
- 8) Special Skills — What sets this work apart from other works of the time? What makes this Author Special? What is the superpower of this genre/author/work?

The card should be designed on a blank sheet of printer paper (8.5" x 11")—no bigger, no smaller. If you have photoshop or similar skills, you can use them. If you prefer to design your card as a JPG or GIF, and then just print it out, that's fine. Electronic copies can be neat to have, but I need a printed version (feel free to print the hard copy in black and white). Make your card as nice as you like, but remember, *CONTENT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN LOOKS*. —Make sure your facts are accurate and the summaries are well-written. Getting the info correct is more important than making it look pretty. Still, don't make your work sloppy. You may use any accurate sources you need to in order to find the info for this assignment. Wikipedia is a great place to start, but double check it against other sites for accuracy (some facts can be wrong on those pages)—and do not copy and paste. Some ground rules apply:

Your paragraph must be **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**--show you have considered and digested the topic. The card is a condensation of what you learned, not a repeat of what has already been said. The goal is to learn about the subject, and condense what you learn into a summary for the reader of the card so that it can help them learn.

Keep your strengths/weaknesses/special skills real—you can be funny and playful, but base them in reality—they should be evaluative judgments of the subject and its merits/flaws, not made up special powers. Herman Melville does not have x-ray vision, for example, but he does have a lot of literary respect in comparison to other authors. (see example). His weaknesses is that he can be dense and deep, he writes horrible poetry, and he has domestic abuse issues with his wife at one point.