

Character Cards

GUIDELINES

Objective: Students create at least five character cards. Each card includes an illustration and important information about a character.

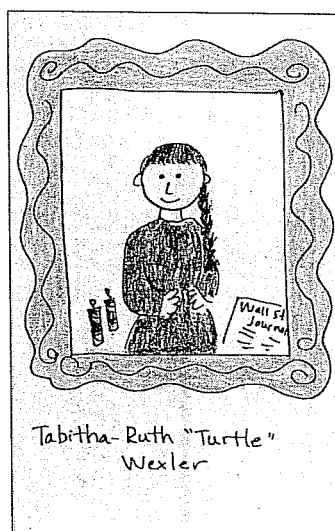
To get students started on this project, display baseball cards and explain that students will make similar cards for the characters in their book. Ask students what information they would include on these cards, and list their suggestions on the board.

Discuss the role that characters play in a mystery and the idea that in this genre characters often aren't who they seem to be. Ask students to think about the characters in the mystery they have read. Pose the following questions:

- * How does the author portray the characters?
- * What does the author want the reader to believe about each one?
- * Did students find any hints about the characters along the way that helped reveal their true role in the mystery?

Encourage students to think about these questions and answer them in a general way so that they do not give away the endings of their mysteries. If several students have read the same book, they might discuss these questions in a small group.

Encourage students to look up information in their book as they fill in their cards. As an alternative to drawing a picture, have students look through old magazines and catalogs and cut out pictures that fit the characters' descriptions.



Name: Tabitha-Ruth "Turtle"
Wexler, 13 years old

Home: Sunset Towers, Apt. 3D

Job: Student, junior high school

Description: Has long dark hair that she wears in a long braid

Role in story: Daughter of Jake + Grace Wexler, sister of Angela
- Partner is Ferno Baumback
- one of heirs to Westing estate

Suspicious behavior:

- Was in the Westing mansion the night of the murder and saw the body of Sam Westing. Did not call police.
- Confessed to setting off the second bomb.
- often kicks other characters
- sells candles used in all bombs

Mystery

Character Cards

Here's a way to keep track of all the characters—make trading cards for them. These cards will look like baseball cards but will show different kinds of information.

DUE DATES
Book approved _____
Book finished _____
Project finished _____

MATERIALS

5- by 8-inch index cards (or paper cut to this size)

DIRECTIONS

1 Find a mystery that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

2 List the characters here.

3 Circle the characters that are most important to the story. (Even a character that seems to have a small part might be very important in the end.)

4 Make a character card for each of the characters you circled. (You should make at least five cards.) On one side of the index card, draw and color a picture of the character. Write the character's name below or above your picture.

5 On the back of each card, include the following information. You may need to look up some of this information in your book. If you can't find the exact information, write "Information not available."

- ✧ Name and approximate age
- ✧ Home
- ✧ Occupation (job)
- ✧ Physical description (what the character looks like)
- ✧ Role in story (how the character is involved in the mystery)
- ✧ Suspicious or unusual behavior

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mystery

Character Cards

Book Title: _____

	POSSIBLE POINTS	POINTS EARNED
1 Did you have your book approved by the due date?	5	
2 Did you hand in your project on time?	10	
3 Did you make a list of the characters?	10	
4 Did you make at least five character cards?	25	
5 Did you draw a picture on one side of each?	20	
6 Did you complete the information on the other side?	20	
7 Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?	10	

Comments: _____
