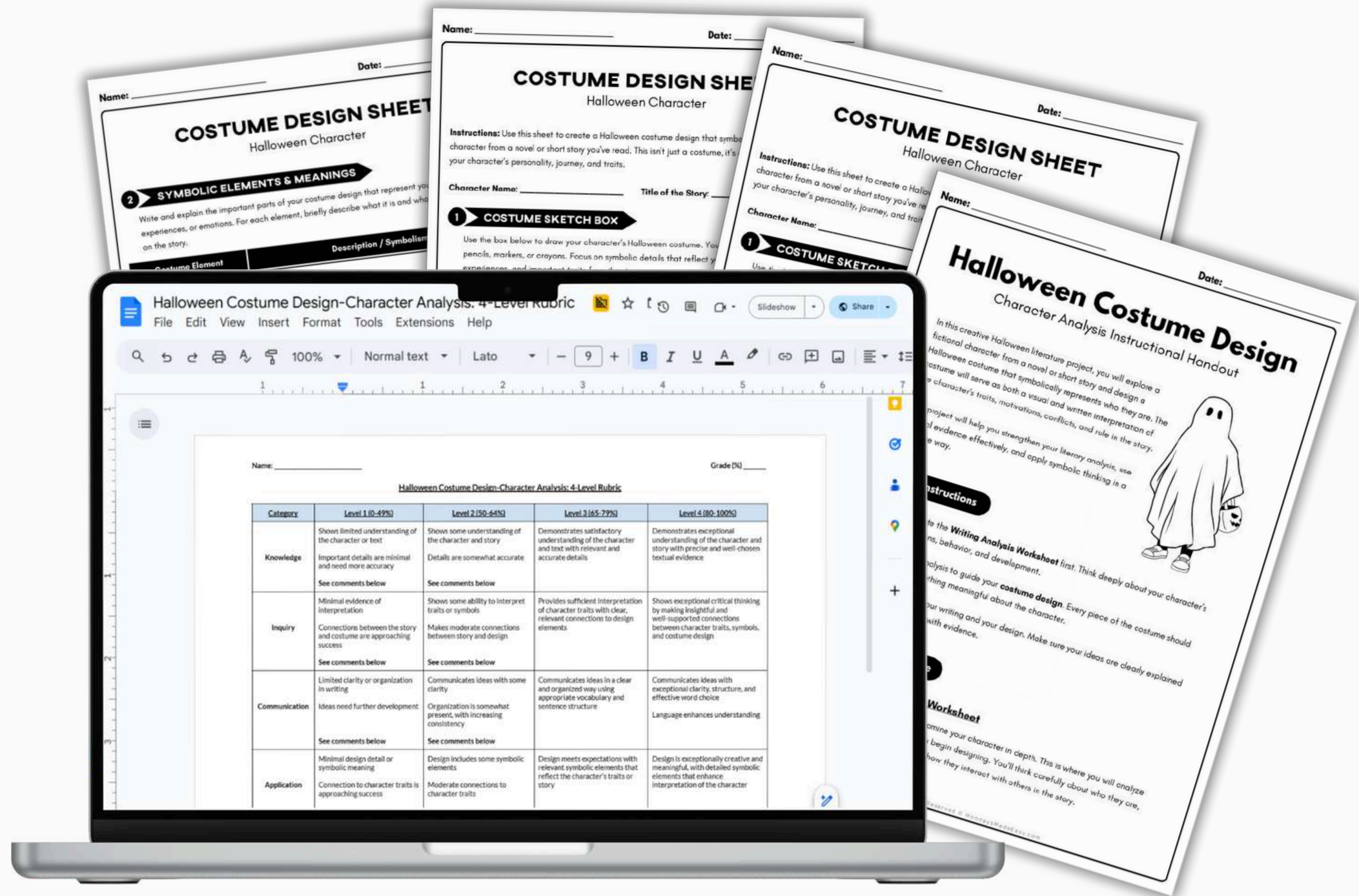


# Halloween Character Costume Design

Students will design a costume based on traits, motivations, and other aspects of characterization



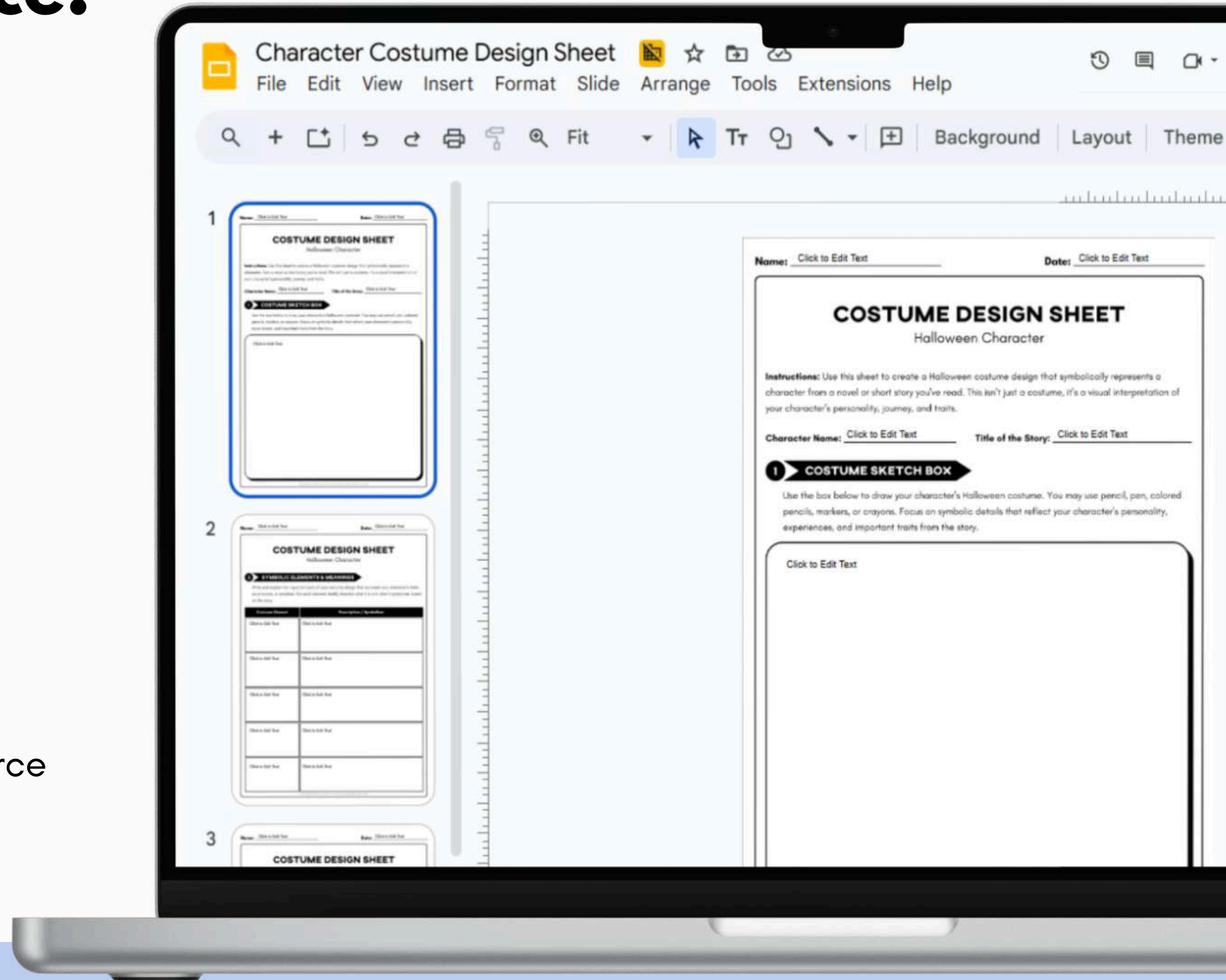
- **Engage students in a creative character analysis project** by designing costumes that reflect personality, traits, and motivations
- **Strengthen close reading skills** with a planning sheet that requires students to connect design choices to textual evidence
- **Simplify grading and feedback** using an editable, ready-to-print rubric with clear success criteria aligned to curriculum expectations

**Challenge students to design a costume for any literary character!**

**PURCHASE HERE**

# Included with this resource:

- ✔ **Instructional Handout** for Halloween Costume Design Challenge
- ✔ Character Costume Design **Planning Sheet**
- ✔ **Writing Analysis Worksheet**
- ✔ **Answer Key** with **Student Examples**
- ✔ Editable & Ready-to-Print **4-Level Rubric**
- ✔ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use this resource

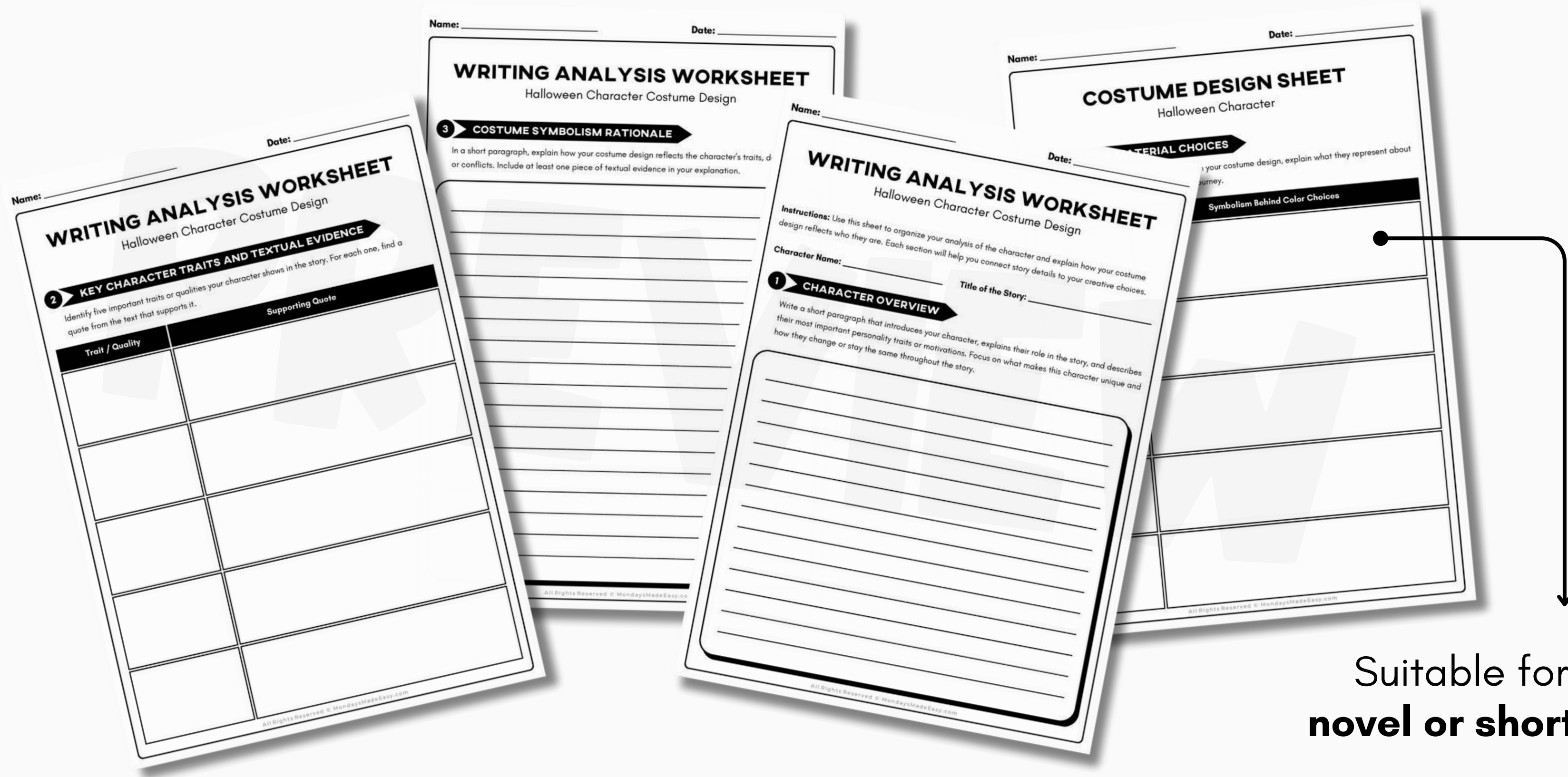


Includes Digital Resources for Google Drive®



# Analyze Text Evidence and Interpret Symbols

Students will use the scaffolding worksheets provided to connect design choices to text evidence



Suitable for **any** novel or short story!

# Includes Student Examples

Use these student examples as mentor texts to outline expectations

**STUDENT SAMPLE**

## WRITING ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Halloween Character Costume Design

**3 COSTUME SYMBOLISM RATIONALE**

In a short paragraph, explain how your costume design reflects the character's traits, development, or conflicts. Include at least one piece of textual evidence in your explanation.

My costume design for Juliet shows her transformation and emotions throughout the play. The base of the costume is a flowing white gown, symbolizing her youth and purity at the beginning of the story. Over it, I added a deep red sash to represent her intense love and the passion that eventually consumes her. A silver locket hangs from her neck, holding a tiny rolled-up letter, which represents the messages that connect and separate her from Romeo. Her dress includes subtle embroidered roses—symbols of both love and the danger that comes with it. Finally, a small dagger tucked into her belt reminds us of her tragic end and the bold decision she made to be with Romeo, even in death. The combination of light and dark colors in her costume reflects her inner conflict and the beauty and sorrow in her story.

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**STUDENT SAMPLE**

## WRITING ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Halloween Character Costume Design

**Instructions:** Use this sheet to organize your analysis of the character and explain how your costume design reflects who they are. Each section will help you connect story details to your creative choices.

Character Name: The Headless Horseman Title of the Story: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

your character, explains their role in the story, and describes motivations. Focus on what makes this character unique and about the story.

from The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, believed to be the stated by a cannonball during the American se rises from his grave each night and rides through his lost head. He is feared by the townspeople and and mystery in the story. Though he never speaks or ce shapes the fearful tone of the town and influences ane. The Horseman remains unchanged throughout re, fear, and the unknown that haunts both the

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**STUDENT SAMPLE**

## WRITING ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Halloween Character Costume Design

**Instructions:** Use this sheet to organize your analysis of the character and explain how your costume design reflects who they are. Each section will help you connect story details to your creative choices.

Character Name: Juliet Capulet Title of the Story: Romeo and Juliet

your character, explains their role in the story, and describes motivations. Focus on what makes this character unique and about the story.

in Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare. She is apulet family. At the start of the play, Juliet is hes, but as the story progresses, she becomes e. Her love for Romeo causes her to question ly make daring choices. Her character changes from man, willing to risk everything for her feelings. Juliet's passion make her unforgettable.

**DESCRIPTIONS & MEANINGS**

Description / Symbolism
Represents loss of identity, humanity, and rationality. In folklore, the missing head often symbolizes vengeance from beyond the grave or a soul seeking justice.
Acts as a substitute for the missing head, symbolizing fear, chaos, and the supernatural. The fire signifies anger or hellish origins, while the jack-o'-lantern connects to Halloween and warding off spirits.
Symbolizes death, mystery, and darkness. Its ragged form suggests decay and timeworn vengeance, enhancing the ghostly, fearsome aura of the figure.

Revolutionary War-Era Attire  
Ties the character to the American Revolutionary period like in Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, hinting at a soldier's violent past or unjust death, reinforcing themes of war, honor lost, or betrayal.

Boots with Spurs  
Symbolizes the ghost's origins as a horseman or soldier, emphasizing relentless pursuit and authority. The spurs also suggest speed, control, and a hunting nature that he is always chasing.

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## COSTUME DESIGN SHEET

Halloween Character

create a Halloween costume design that symbolically represents a story you've read. This isn't just a costume, it's a visual interpretation of key events, and traits.

Title of the Story: Romeo and Juliet

**SKETCH BOX**

your character's Halloween costume. You may use pencil, pen, colored pencil, or markers. Focus on symbolic details that reflect your character's personality, traits, and events from the story.



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## COSTUME DESIGN SHEET


Halloween Character

your character, explains their role in the story, and describes motivations. Focus on what makes this character unique and about the story.

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# Includes Editable & Ready-to-Print 4-Level Rubric

Modify this rubric to meet the unique needs of your classroom

Halloween Costume Design-Character Analysis: 4-Level Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (%) \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Level 1 (0-49%)	Level 2 (50-64%)	Level 3 (65-79%)	Level 4 (80-100%)
<b>Knowledge</b>	Shows limited understanding of the character or text Important details are minimal and need more accuracy See comments below	Shows some understanding of the character and story Details are somewhat accurate See comments below	Demonstrates satisfactory understanding of the character and text with relevant and accurate details	Demonstrates exceptional understanding of the character and story with precise and well-chosen textual evidence
<b>Inquiry</b>	Minimal evidence of interpretation Connections between the story and costume are approaching success See comments below	Shows some ability to interpret traits or symbols Makes moderate connections between story and design See comments below	Provides sufficient interpretation of character traits with clear, relevant connections to design elements	Shows exceptional critical thinking by making insightful and well-supported connections between character traits, symbols, and costume design
<b>Communication</b>	Limited clarity or organization in writing Ideas need further development See comments below	Communicates ideas with some clarity Organization is somewhat present, with increasing consistency See comments below	Communicates ideas in a clear and organized way using appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure	Communicates ideas with exceptional clarity, structure, and effective word choice Language enhances understanding
<b>Application</b>	Minimal design detail or symbolic meaning Connection to character traits is approaching success	Design includes some symbolic elements Moderate connections to character traits	Design meets expectations with relevant symbolic elements that reflect the character's traits or story	Design is exceptionally creative and meaningful, with detailed symbolic elements that enhance interpretation of the character

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (%) \_\_\_\_\_

Halloween Costume Design-Character Analysis: 4-Level Rubric

Category	Level 1 (0-49%)	Level 2 (50-64%)	Level 3 (65-79%)	Level 4 (80-100%)
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Comments:



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