Literary Arts Careers: 
Independent Learning Guide

The role models in the video “Literary Arts Careers” share their passion for their careers in the field of literary arts.

Watch the video “Literary Arts Careers” at least once. Then read each statement below. Think carefully about each question before you answer it.

1. “Art imitates life and life imitates art.”

What do you think is meant by this quote?
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Give an example of how the literary arts imitate life.
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2. One literary artist in the video said that when writing a story, it’s important to create characters that are “complex and authentic.”

Why might it be important to create characters that are complex?

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The word “authentic” means to be real or believable. Why is it helpful for the characters we create and write about to be authentic?

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3. Another one of the literary artists in the video said that she finds it most rewarding to use her imagination in “coming up with something that didn’t exist before” and then sharing it with a larger group of people.

Tell about a time you came up with something that didn’t exist before.

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How can you strengthen your imagination so that you can continue to create new things to share?

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4. Each literary artist named some reasons she found her work to be personally rewarding.

What does it mean when someone says their work is “personally rewarding?”

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What were some reasons the literary artists gave that their work was meaningful and rewarding to them?

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5. In the video, one of the literary artists said that poetry is a very personal form of written expression.

What do you think she meant by this? Explain.

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Tell about a time you wrote, listened to, or read a poem. Explain the deep positive or negative feelings the poem stirred in you.

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6. The same literary artist said she enjoys writing poetry because she believes “poems can save lives.”

What do you think this artist meant when she said that?

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Do you think it might be possible for a poem to save a life? Explain your answer.

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7. The last artist in the video says that a career in the literary arts allows you to step into someone else’s shoes and see life through another’s eyes.

What did the artist mean when she said this?

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How can being able to see things through the eyes of another help you expand who you are? Explain.

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