



BARD COLLEGE

COLLEGE OF ILLUMINATION

Bards of this college masterfully manipulate light and dark to embolden their allies and demoralize their foes. Their shining spotlights can highlight one's strengths to boost their confidence or draw full attention to their weaknesses to cripple their resolve. With their shadowy minions, they can cloak and goad their allies while blinding and berating their enemies. For better or worse, these bards can expose all one's strengths and weaknesses, and no shadow escapes their scrutinizing light.

LIGHTSCRIBE

When you join the College of Elements at 3rd level, you learn the *darkness* spell. It counts as a bard spell for you, but it doesn't count against the number of spells you know.

Additionally, when your spellcasting feature lets you learn a bard cantrip or a bard spell of 1st level or higher, you can choose any spell from any spell list that creates light or deals radiant damage. If the spell deals damage, it must only be capable of dealing radiant damage. You must otherwise obey all the restrictions for selecting the spell, and it becomes a bard spell for you.

DRAMATIC SPOTLIGHT

At 3rd level, you can summon a spotlight that emboldens an ally with praise and adoration or cripples an enemy with scorn and scrutiny. As a bonus action, you can expend a use of your bardic inspiration to conjure a magical spotlight focused on a creature you can see within 60 feet of you. The spotlight's size always matches the target creature's, and it will follow the target wherever it moves. The spotlight lasts for 1 minute or until you dismiss it (no action required).

While a spotlight is active, you can use your bonus action to move it to another creature you can see within 60 feet of you. Additionally, if the spotlight's target drops to 0 hit points before the effect ends, you can use a bonus action on a subsequent turn of yours to refocus it on a new creature.

An allied creature targeted by the spotlight gains the following benefits:

- It can see through magical and non-magical darkness out to 120 feet.
- The first time it deals damage on its turn, it deals additional radiant damage equal to a roll of your bardic inspiration die.
- It has advantage on Charisma checks

An enemy creature targeted by the spotlight suffers the following effects:

- It loses all abilities that would allow it to see through darkness or turn invisible.
- The first time it deals damage on its turn, that damage is reduced by an amount equal to a roll of your bardic inspiration die.
- It has disadvantage on Charisma checks

INKLING SUMMONING

At 6th level, you learn to summon an elemental being formed from the psychic energy of scorn and praise known as an **inkling**. You can use your action to summon an **inkling**, which lasts for 1 hour, or until you dismiss it (no action required).

In combat, the **inkling** shares your initiative count, but it takes its turn immediately after yours. It can move and use its reaction on its own, but the only action it takes on its turn is the Dodge action unless you take a bonus action on your turn to command it to take another action. That action can be one in its stat block or some other action. If you are incapacitated, the **inkling** can take any action of its choice, not just dodge.

When you use your Bardic Inspiration feature or your Dramatic Spotlight feature, you can command the **inkling** as part of the same bonus action you use for Bardic Inspiration.

Once you summon an **inkling** you can't do so again until you finish a long rest, unless you expend a spell slot of 3rd level or higher to use this feature again. You can have only one **inkling** at a time.

BEAMING DEFIANCE

At 14th level, the potency of your spotlight is significantly increased, and it gains the following additional effects based on whether it is focused on an enemy or an ally:

- Allied creatures gain a 30 foot fly speed.
- When an enemy is first targeted by your spotlight, you can force it to make a Charisma saving throw against your spell save DC. On a failure, its move speed is reduced by 15 feet, and it is subjected to the effects of the *earthbind* spell.



INKLING

Small elemental, any alignment

Armor Class 11 (natural armor)

Hit Points 5 + 5 times your level in this class

Speed 10 ft, fly 30 ft. (hover).

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
6 (-2)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	4 (-3)	10 (0)	14 (+2)

Damage Immunities psychic

Condition Immunities Blinded, Charmed, Deafened, Exhaustion, Frightened, Prone

Senses Darkvision 120 Ft, passive Perception 10.

Languages Any that its creator knows

Proficiency Bonus Equal to your bonus

Devil's Sight Magical darkness doesn't impede the inkling's darkvision.

Amorphous. The inkling can move through a space as narrow as 1 inch wide without squeezing.

Darkness Aura. A 15-foot radius of magical darkness extends out from the inkling, moves with it, and spreads around corners. Darkvision can't penetrate this darkness, and no natural light can illuminate it. If any of the darkness overlaps with an area of light created by a spell of 1st Level or lower, the spell creating the light is dispelled.

Actions

Lash of Malice Melee Weapon Attack: your spell attack modifier to hit, reach 5 ft., one target you can see. Hit: one roll of your bardic dice + your PB psychic damage.

COLLEGE OF ILLUMINATION NPCs

The following stat blocks can be used to describe non-player character bards from the college of illumination or have abilities similar to a bard of that college. You can choose the stat block that best aligns with the power level of the NPC. To further customize your NPC, apply the racial traits of whichever humanoid race you've chosen for it. You can also replace any of its known spells with spells of an equivalent level from the bard spell list or spells that deal radiant damage or have a light radius.

ART CREDIT

- Shaile, Dean of Radiance - Yongjae Choi, Wizards of the Coast
- Inkling Token - Scott Murphy, Wizards of the Coast
- Exhilarating Elocution - Randy Vargas, Wizards of the Coast
- Breena, the Demagogue - Simon Dominic, Wizards of the Coast
- Arrogant Poet - Billy Christian, Wizards of the Coast



LIGHTSCRIBE

Medium humanoid (any race), any alignment

Armor Class 13 (leather)
Hit Points 39 (6d8+12)
Speed 30ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (-1)	14 (+2)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	16 (+3)

Saving Throws Dex +4 Charisma +5
Skills Persuasion +7, Performance +7, Insight+ 2
Senses passive Perception 10.
Languages - any two languages.
Challenge 2 (450 XP) **Proficiency Bonus** +2

Bonus Actions

Dramatic Spotlight (3/Day). The lightscribe conjures a magical spotlight focused on a creature it can see within 60 feet of it. The spotlight's size always matches the target creature's, and it will follow the target wherever it moves. The spotlight lasts for 1 minute or until the lightscribe is incapacitated or dismisses it (no action required).

While a spotlight is active, the lightscribe can use its bonus action to move it to another creature it can see within 60 feet of it. Additionally, if the spotlight's target drops to 0 hit points before the effect ends, it can use a bonus action on a subsequent turn to refocus the spotlight on a new creature.

An allied creature targeted by the spotlight gains the following benefits:

- It can see through magical and non-magical darkness out to 120 feet.

- The first time it deals damage on its turn, it deals an additional 1d6 radiant damage.
- It has advantage on Charisma checks

An enemy creature targeted by the spotlight suffers the following effects:

- It loses all abilities that would allow it to see through darkness or turn invisible.
- The first time it deals damage on its turn, that damage is reduced by 1d6.
- It has disadvantage on Charisma checks

Actions

Rapier. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 6 (1d8 + 2) piercing damage.

Shortbow. *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, range 80/320 ft., one target. Hit: 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage.

Spellcasting. The lightscribe is a 3rd-level spellcaster. Its spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 13 +5 to hit with spell attacks). It has the following bard spells prepared:

Cantrips (at will): *light, sacred flame, minor illusion*

1st level (4 slots): *guiding bolt, faerie fire, sleep*

2nd level (2 slots): *darkness, enlarge/reduce, see invisibility*

RADIANT PROFESSOR

Medium humanoid (any race), any alignment

Armor Class 15 (studded leather)

Hit Points 187 (25d8+75)

Speed 30ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (-1)	16 (+3)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	18 (+4)

Saving Throws Dex +6 Charisma +7

Skills Persuasion +10, Performance +10, Insight+ 5

Senses passive Perception 10.

Languages - any two languages.

Challenge 8 (450 XP) **Proficiency Bonus** +3

Bonus Actions

Dramatic Spotlight (4/Day). The professor conjures a magical spotlight focused on a creature it can see within 60 feet of it. The spotlight's size always matches the target creature's, and it will follow the target wherever it moves. The spotlight lasts for 1 minute or until the professor is incapacitated or dismisses it (no action required).

While a spotlight is active, the professor can use its bonus action to move it to another creature it can see within 60 feet of it. Additionally, if the spotlight's target drops to 0 hit points before the effect ends, it can use a bonus action on a subsequent turn to refocus the spotlight on a new creature.

An allied creature targeted by the spotlight gains the following benefits:

- It can see through magical and non-magical darkness out to 120 feet.
- The first time it deals damage on its turn, it deals an additional 1d10 radiant damage.

- It has advantage on Charisma checks

- It gains a 30 foot fly speed.

An enemy creature targeted by the spotlight suffers the following effects:

- It loses all abilities that would allow it to see through darkness or turn invisible.
- The first time it deals damage on its turn, that damage is reduced by 1d10.
- It has disadvantage on Charisma checks

When an enemy is first targeted by the spotlight, it must make DC 15 Charisma saving throw or have its move speed reduced by 15 feet and be subjected to the effects of the *earthbind* spell.

Actions

Rapier. Melee Weapon Attack: +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 7 (1d8 + 3) piercing damage.

Shortbow. Ranged Weapon Attack: +6 to hit, range 80/320 ft., one target. Hit: 6 (1d6 + 3) piercing damage.

Spellcasting. The professor is a 11th spellcaster. Its spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 15 +7 to hit with spell attacks). It has the following bard spells prepared:

Cantrips (at will): *light*, *sacred flame*, *dancing lights*, *minor illusion*

1st level (4 slots): *guiding bolt*, *faerie fire*, *sleep*

2nd level (3 slots): *darkness*, *enlarge/reduce*, *see invisibility*

3rd level (3 slots): *daylight*, *dispel magic*

4th level (3 slots): *polymorph*

5th level (2 slots): *mass cure wounds*

6th level (1 slots): *sunbeam*

