

Writing a Life Story: Biography Basics

Learning objective: To understand the features of a biography and apply them to structure a recount of someone's life.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of biographies to answer. Remember that a biography is a non-fiction account of a person's life written by someone else.

A biography tells the story of a real person's life. It includes important dates, places they lived, their challenges, and their greatest successes. Biographies are usually written in chronological order to show how a person's life unfolded over time.

Word bank: chronological · third-person · achievements · past tense · significant · facts

1. Why is it important for a biography to be written in chronological order? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. Biographies are written in the third person. Write one sentence that Nova the owl might use to describe an achievement of her friend, Pip the caterpillar. (2 marks)

3. List three types of information you would need to include if you were writing a biography about a famous historical figure. (3 marks)

4. Why do we use the past tense when writing a biography about someone who lived a long time ago? (2 marks)

5. Max the monkey wants to write a biography. He has found a diary written by the person. Is the diary a primary or secondary source? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Life Timeline' for a famous person of your choice. Include at least three important boxes showing their birth, a major event, and a final achievement.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a life timeline for a famous person. The box is oriented horizontally and occupies a significant portion of the page.

Extension challenge: Choose a family member or a friend. Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) about their life so far, using the third person and including at least two specific dates or ages.