

Year 4 English Assessment: Writing a Biography

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the structure, features, and purpose of a biography.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and ensure you use full sentences where required.

Ellie the Elephant is a remarkable historian who lives in the Great Library of the Forest. Born on a sunny morning in the Whispering Woods, Ellie spent her early years listening to the elder animals tell tales of long ago. She discovered her passion for history when she found an ancient, dusty map tucked behind a shelf. Ellie decided to dedicate her life to recording the stories of others. Over the years, she has travelled to every corner of the woodland, interviewing foxes, owls, and mice to ensure their legacies are never forgotten. Today, Ellie is known as the Great Archivist. Her most famous achievement was creating the first ever library for forest creatures, which holds over one thousand stories.

Word bank: chronological · facts · third person · past tense · achievements · biography · anecdote

1. Identify two features of a biography used in the passage above. (2 marks)

2. Why is the information in a biography usually written in chronological order? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

3. Explain why biographies are written in the third person (using words like 'she', 'he', or 'they') rather than the first person ('I'). (3 marks)

4. Find and copy one sentence from the text that represents a factual achievement in Ellie's life. (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for a biographer to include 'anecdotes' or interesting details about a person's life, rather than just a list of dates? (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are writing a biography about your best friend or a family member. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) introducing them. Include their name, where they were born, and one thing that makes them special. (6 marks)

7. If you were going to research a famous person to write a biography, list two reliable sources you could use to find true information about them. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of Ellie the Elephant in her library. Add a label to one of her books showing the title of a biography you might want to write about her.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: If you could write a biography about any historical figure, who would it be and why? Write three sentences explaining your choice.