

Mastering Biographies with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To identify, define, and evaluate the structural features and purpose of a biographical text.

Read the front of each flashcard carefully. Try to recall the definition or purpose before checking the answer on the back. Use these cards to test your knowledge of how we document the lives of others.

What is a biography?

A piece of non-fiction writing that tells the life story of a real person, written by someone else.

Why do authors use chronological order in a biography?

To present events in the exact sequence they happened, from birth to the present day or the end of the subject's life.

What is an anecdote in a biography?

A short, interesting, or amusing story about a real incident or person, used to bring their personality to life.

What does it mean to write from a third-person perspective?

Using pronouns like 'he', 'she', or 'they' to describe the subject's life from an outside viewpoint.

What is the difference between a biography and an autobiography?

A biography is written by someone else; an autobiography is written by the person themselves.

Why must a biographer include facts?

To ensure the account is accurate, truthful, and provides a reliable record of historical events.

What is a primary source?

Original documents or objects from the time, such as letters, diaries, or photographs, used to research a biography.

Explain the purpose of including a 'legacy' in a biography.

To describe the long-lasting impact or influence the person had on the world after their achievements.

What might happen if a biography did not include dates or time markers?

The reader would struggle to understand the sequence of events and how the subject's life developed over time.

Justify why it is important for a biographer to remain objective.

Being objective ensures the writer presents a balanced view of the person's life rather than just their own personal opinion.

Compare and contrast: How is a biography similar to a history book, but different from a storybook?

Both are based on real facts and historical truth, whereas a storybook is often fictional and invented by the author's imagination.

Creative Task: If you were to write a biography about Pip the Bookworm, what specific details would you need to gather to make it authentic?

I would need to find out when and where Pip was born, what their biggest challenges were, and what special contributions they made to the world of literature.