

Writing a Life Story: Biography Masterclass

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

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of non-fiction writing to answer. Remember to use formal language, third-person perspective, and chronological order.

A biography is a detailed account of a person's life written by someone else. It focuses on key milestones, character traits, and the impact the individual had on the world. Biographers use facts, dates, and often include quotes or personal stories to bring the subject to life.

Word bank: Chronological · Third-person · Anecdote · Significant · Achievement · Perspective · Legacy

1. Explain why a biography must be written in the third-person perspective. Give an example of a pronoun you would use. (2 marks)

2. Why is it important for a biographer to present information in chronological order? (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey is writing a biography about an explorer. List three specific types of information he should include to make the biography accurate. (3 marks)

4. What is the purpose of including an 'anecdote' in a biography, and how does it change the reader's experience? (2 marks)

5. If you were writing about a historical figure, why would you need to research their 'legacy' at the end of the biography? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Timeline of Success' for an imaginary famous person. Include four labelled illustrations showing their birth, a major challenge, a great achievement, and their lasting legacy.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a 'Timeline of Success' for an imaginary famous person. The box is currently blank.

Extension challenge: Choose a family member or a historical figure. Write a short paragraph (50–70 words) using formal language that introduces their early life and one major achievement.