

Year 4 Assessment: The Art of Biography

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of biographical features, chronological structure, and the use of third-person perspective.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions that follow. Use full sentences where required and ensure your spelling and grammar are accurate.

Nova the barn owl was born in the quiet corners of the Whispering Woods. From a young age, she displayed a remarkable curiosity for the night sky, often staying awake long after the other owlets had fallen asleep to map the constellations. In 2021, Nova travelled to the summit of Star-Peak Mountain, where she began her lifelong study of astronomy. She spent three years recording the movement of the planets before publishing her first guide to the stars. Today, Nova is known across the land as a pioneer of wildlife science, inspiring young explorers to look upwards and question the mysteries of the universe.

Word bank: Chronological · Third-person · Anecdote · Perspective · Factual · Legacy · Objective

1. Identify two features of a biography that are present in the text above. Explain why these features are important. (2 marks)

2. The text uses the third-person perspective. Rewrite the first sentence using the first-person perspective ('I'). (1 mark)

3. Why is it important for a biographer to arrange events in chronological order? Give an example from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

4. A biography should be objective. Explain what this means and why a writer should avoid using their own opinions when writing about someone's life. (3 marks)

5. Find and copy one phrase from the text that indicates the passage of time. (1 mark)

6. What is the purpose of the final sentence in the passage? How does it help the reader understand the significance of Nova's life? (2 marks)

7. Imagine you are writing a biography about Max the monkey. Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) about his early life. Remember to use the third-person, include a date or time indicator, and maintain a formal, factual tone. (5 marks)

8. Compare and contrast: How would a biography about Nova differ from a diary entry written by Nova herself? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

9. What might happen if a biographer decided to make up events that never actually happened in a person's life? Explain the potential impact on the reader. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a timeline illustrating three key events from Nova's life mentioned in the passage, adding a small sketch for each event to show her journey.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Choose a family member or a historical figure. Research three significant dates in their life and draft a 'biographical profile' that highlights their greatest achievement. Reflect: Why is it important to verify facts before publishing a biography?