

A Life in the Stars: The Story of Dr. Elara Vance

Learning objective: To understand the features of a biography and retrieve information from a non-fiction text.

Read the biography below carefully and answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Dr. Elara Vance was born in 1972 in a quiet village in the Lake District. As a young child, she spent many nights lying in the grass, gazing at the glittering night sky. While other children played with toys, Elara was busy sketching the constellations she saw above. Her curiosity led her to study physics at university, where she worked tirelessly to understand how stars are born.

In 2005, Dr. Vance became the first person to discover a hidden nebula using a custom-built lens. Her work changed how we view deep space. Despite facing many challenges, including harsh weather conditions at her mountain observatory, she never gave up. She often said, 'The universe has secrets, but you must have the patience to listen.' Today, she spends her time teaching young people to look up and wonder. She believes that every child has the potential to become a scientist if they are willing to ask questions and explore the unknown. Dr. Vance remains an inspiration to astronomers across the world, proving that small dreams can lead to giant discoveries.

Word bank: astronomer · telescope · constellation · pioneering · perseverance · observatory

1. In what year was Dr. Elara Vance born, and where did she grow up? (2 marks)

2. What significant discovery did Dr. Vance make in 2005? (1 mark)

3. Based on the text, what personal quality helped Dr. Vance succeed despite the harsh weather at the observatory? (2 marks)

4. Why does the author describe Dr. Vance's work as 'pioneering'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Dr. Vance is a good role model for children? Give one reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Dr. Elara Vance sitting on a hill at night, looking through a large telescope at a bright, swirling nebula in the sky.



Extension challenge: Nova the owl is planning a stargazing trip! Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a student who has just attended one of Dr. Vance's lectures. Describe three things you learned about the stars.