

Year 5 English Assessment: The Art of Biography

Learning objective: To understand the structural and linguistic features of a biography and to apply these skills to compose a biographical account.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use formal, clear English and check your spelling and punctuation. Total marks available: 25.

Born in 1894, Professor Elara Vance was a pioneer of botanical exploration. Growing up in the misty valleys of the Peak District, she spent her childhood documenting rare ferns in a handmade notebook. Her insatiable curiosity led her to study at university when few women were encouraged to do so. In 1928, she discovered the 'Silver-Leaf Ivy' in the remote mountains of the Andes, a find that transformed our understanding of plant respiration. Despite facing many challenges, including harsh weather and lack of funding, her dedication never wavered. Professor Vance spent her later years teaching young scientists, ensuring her knowledge would inspire future generations. She passed away in 1974, leaving behind a legacy of discovery and a collection of over five thousand sketches.

Word bank: chronological · anecdote · legacy · perspective · biographical · achievement · objective · narrative

1. Identify the primary structure used in this biography. Explain why the author chose this structure. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy one piece of evidence from the text that shows Elara Vance's determination. (1 mark)

3. What is the difference between a biography and an autobiography? Use the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

4. Explain why the author includes specific dates, such as 1894 and 1928, in the text. (2 marks)

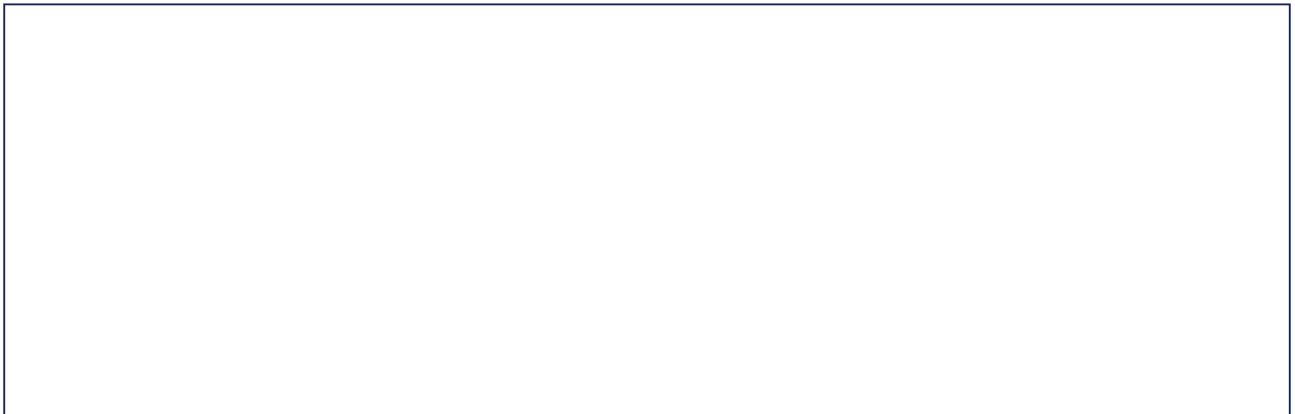
5. Justify why the discovery of the 'Silver-Leaf Ivy' is considered a significant achievement in Elara's life. (3 marks)

6. Compare and contrast Elara's childhood interests with her adult career. How did they influence one another? (4 marks)

7. Write a short biographical paragraph (approx. 60 words) about our friend Max the monkey, who loves solving maths puzzles. Use formal tone, chronological order, and include one historical fact or date (real or imagined). (5 marks)

8. What might happen if a biographer chose to leave out all the 'challenges' Elara faced? Discuss the impact this would have on the reader's perception of her character. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of Professor Elara Vance in her natural habitat, including one tool she might have used to document her botanical findings.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Imagine you are interviewing Professor Vance. Write three sophisticated, open-ended questions you would ask her about her time in the Andes, and explain why you chose these specific questions.