

Grade 4 ELA Assessment: The Art of Biography

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the structure, features, and purpose of biographical writing.

Read the biography below carefully. Answer all questions using your knowledge of non-fiction text features. Write in full sentences where requested.

In 1912, a young inventor named Arthur P. Sterling was born in a small coastal village in Cornwall. From a very early age, Arthur was fascinated by how things moved. While other children played with wooden toys, Arthur spent his afternoons in his father's workshop, sketching designs for wind-powered machines. By the age of twenty, he had moved to London to study engineering. His most famous contribution to the world was the 'Sterling Turbine', an invention that helped provide clean water to rural communities. Arthur passed away in 1988, but his work continues to inspire young engineers today.

Word bank: chronological · anecdote · perspective · past tense · objective · achievement · legacy

1. Identify two features of biographical writing present in the text above. (2 marks)

2. Why is the information in the text written in chronological order? (2 marks)

3. Explain why a biographer uses the third-person perspective (he/she/they) instead of the first-person perspective (I/me). (3 marks)

4. Find and copy one sentence from the text that represents a significant 'achievement' in Arthur's life. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think the author included details about Arthur's childhood in the workshop? (3 marks)

6. Imagine you are interviewing Arthur P. Sterling. Write three questions you would ask him to learn more about his life and inspirations. (3 marks)

7. Choose a famous historical figure or a person you admire. Write a short biographical paragraph (approx. 50-70 words) about them. Include their date of birth, one major accomplishment, and why they are remembered today. (5 marks)

8. If a biography book costs £8.99 and you buy two copies as gifts, how much change would you receive from a £20 note? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a storyboard of three scenes from Arthur P. Sterling's life: his childhood in the workshop, his time as an engineering student, and his legacy helping others.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research a person who has made a positive impact on the environment. Write a list of five 'fact-file' points about their life.