

Biography Masterclass with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify the key features, structure, and purpose of a biographical text.

Read the questions carefully and test your knowledge of how biographies are written. Ellie the Elephant has been busy reading historical accounts, so see if you can match her expertise!

Answer Key: 1. B; 2. True; 3. Third-person; 4. A; 5. False; 6. To inform/educate; 7. C; 8. True; 9. Past; 10. D.

Word bank: Chronological · Third-person · Past tense · Anecdote · Fact · Subject · Perspective

1. 1. Which of these is the most common structure for a biography? A) Random order B) Chronological order* C) Reversed order D) Alphabetical order (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A biography is a factual account of a person's life written by someone else. (1 mark)

3. 3. From which narrative perspective is a biography usually written? (One word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. What is a short, interesting story about a real incident or person called? A) Anecdote* B) Myth C) Fable D) Soliloquy (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Biographies should include the author's own feelings and opinions about the subject. (1 mark)

6. 6. What is the primary purpose of writing a biography? (Short phrase) (1 mark)

7. 7. Which of these would you NOT expect to find in a biography? A) Dates B) Photographs C) Made-up dialogue* D) Key events (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: A biography focuses on the 'subject' of the text. (1 mark)

9. 9. Biographies are usually written in which tense? (One word answer) (1 mark)

10. 10. Why are subheadings often used in biographies? A) To make it look pretty B) To distract the reader C) To add more pages D) To help organise information by theme or life stage* (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a famous historical figure you have studied, and around them, draw three icons that represent significant events or achievements in their life.



Extension challenge: Choose a family member or a historical figure and write a short, one-paragraph 'mini-biography' about them, ensuring you use the third-person perspective and chronological order.