

Learning Objective

To understand what a biography is.

Success Criteria

- I can explain the features of biographies.
- I can write a biography.

Biographies



A biography is a type of report. It gives facts about a person's life. It is not written by the subject of the book but by an author who has done their research and knows a great deal about that person. Biographies are written in the third person and can be written about someone who is no longer alive.



Other Important Features of a Biography

A biography is a life story written in chronological order.

It can include information about when and where the subject was born, their childhood, important events in their lives including information about what they did or achieved.

If the person is no longer alive, it may include information about when and how they died.



Here is an example of a biography of Julia Donaldson.

Growing Up

Julia Donaldson was born on 16th September 1948. She grew up in a tall house in London with her family.

Julia and her sister loved making up their own stories and songs and they used to put on shows and dances.

She went to Bristol University. She met her husband Malcolm there and they had three children.

Julia used to make up songs for children and she became a singer and songwriter for TV.

What a Lot of Books She Has Written!

Her most famous book is The Gruffalo. It has sold over 10 million copies all around the world. Julia has written 184 books. Lots can be found in bookshops or in schools. Do you have any of her books in your school?

What features of a biography can you spot ?

Biography Activity

You are going to write a biography about someone in your house (if you are at home) or your partner (if you are at school). You need to interview them for 5 minutes to find out as much information as possible so that you can write a short biography of their life so far. Try to give the information in chronological (time) order.

Points to mention:

- Where and when you were born
- Your family
- Important events in your life and feelings about these events (e.g. starting school, joining clubs, moving house, achievements etc.)



Now you are going to write a short biography.

Remember;

Write in chronological order.

Write in the past tense.

Write in full sentences.

