

Wednesday



Today's word is: innovator

Definition- A person who introduces new ideas, inventions or methods.

Example - Brunel was an innovator when it came to bridges and tunnels.

LO: To Identify the features of a biography

Over the past few days we have been exploring an area of non-fiction writing. This has seen you collect and retell facts on both yourself and Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Today we are going to add some context to the reasons behind our learning this week.

Florence Nightingale

Who Was Florence Nightingale?

Florence Nightingale was a very famous nurse. She helped to change the way hospitals treated people and worked hard to make sure they were clean.



Childhood

Florence Nightingale was born on the 12th May 1820 in Italy. She lived with her father, her mother and her sister, Pop. Her family was a rich British family. Both the girls were named after the places in Italy that they were born. They travelled around the world and the girls were given lessons by their father. Florence was very good at Maths and science. Florence believed that God wanted her to do important work. She knew she wanted to be a nurse.

Becoming a Nurse

Nursing was not a good job back then and the hospitals were horrible, dirty places. Florence's parents did not want her to become a nurse so they sent her away to Italy to try to make her forget about her plan. It didn't work. She returned even more determined and began to train as a nurse. Soon, she got her first job running a hospital for women in London. She helped to make the hospital run much more smoothly so that the patients got better care.

The Crimean War

A terrible war broke out in the Crimea in 1853 with France, Britain and Turkey all fighting with Russia. The people in Britain read about the war and the dreadful way the soldiers were being cared for in the army hospitals. There was little food and the water was dirty. Injured soldiers had to lie on the cold stone floor while rats ran around them. There were no nurses to look after them and there was no proper medicine. It was a hopeless situation so Florence Nightingale was asked to take a team of nurses to there. It was the first time women had been allowed in the army.

Florence Arrives

Florence went to the Crimea with a group of 38 nurses in November 1854. She made sure her and her team of nurses were clean and neat to help make the soldiers better. They scrubbed the hospital, removed the rats and dirt and made sure there was proper food and medicine. What brave ladies they were! Florence Nightingale would check on the men every night. The British soldiers were very grateful for her kindness and they called her the Lady of the Lamp.



*Have a
read of
this*

You have just read a biography!

But what is a biography?

But what is a biography?

What is a biography?

A **biography** is an extended piece of writing that details the life of a specific person, that they did not write themselves.

The features of a biography

Summarised the main events of the person's life in the first paragraph?	Red
Written in the past tense?	Orange
Used third person pronouns? (he, she, his, her, they, their)	Yellow
Written about key events in the person's life?	Green
Usually has dates and ages for key points in their life.	Blue
Written about key influences in the person's life?	Purple
Conclusion evaluates the person's life and their impact on the world.	Grey

Look back though your writing from the past two days, can you identify where you have already used these features?

Let's explore biographies a little further with this video

*[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=q7abluGwup8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7abluGwup8)*

Today we are going to be using a key to identify the features of a biography. Let's work together to see if we can spot them in an example text.

The features of a biography

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Conclusion evaluates the person's life and their impact on the world.

J.K. Rowling Fact File

Biography

J.K. Rowling is the best-selling living author in the UK and her books are popular all over the world. Rowling has named Jane Austen and C.S. Lewis as a few of her favourite writers.

She was born Joanne Rowling on 31st July 1965, in Gloucestershire. Joanne enjoyed writing fantasy stories from an early age, reading them to her younger sister. Having graduated from university, she moved to London to work as a researcher for Amnesty International, an organisation which works to protect human rights around the world. Rowling also lived and worked in Manchester.

It was in 1990, when she was on a delayed train journey from Manchester to London that the idea for a series of books came into her head. Sadly, during the writing of the first Harry Potter book, her mother died. Rowling decided to introduce more detail about the loss of the main character's parents as she knew how it felt. Joanne used her own life as inspiration for many other ideas in the book, for example, her parents met at Kings Cross Station which is where Harry Potter catches the train to school.

After living and working as an English teacher in Portugal, Rowling moved to Edinburgh with her daughter. Those early days of living in Scotland weren't easy for Joanne as she had no job. She gave her spare time to finishing her book. When the story was finally complete, it was sent to 12 different publishing houses, all of which turned it down. In 1997, the book was finally published by Bloomsbury under the name J.K. Rowling. As Joanne didn't have a middle name, she used her grandmother's name, 'Kathleen' in her initials. Shortly after, the book won its first award and proved to be very popular. She later released the next book, 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets', followed by 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'. The next book in the series, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, broke sales records in both the UK and America.

Name:

Joanne Rowling

Born:

31st July 1965

Place of birth:

Gloucestershire, UK

Occupation:

Writer, Author



The features of a biography

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J.K. Rowling Fact File

Rowling was also named Author of the Year at the 2000 British Book Awards and 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' broke sales records in both the UK and America. Rowling was also named Author of the Year at the 2000 British Book Awards and awarded an OBE for writing such popular children's books.

The final book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows', was released in 2007 and became the fastest-selling book in history. Since the last Harry Potter book, Rowling has written other books linked to the original Harry Potter series. She has also written stories for adults and continues to write more new material.

Today, original copies of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' sell for around £20,000 and the series has been translated into 65 languages. The books were also made into very successful films.



Photo courtesy of vegansalrightedge @ Flickr - granted under creative commons licence

Your task now is to work through the following example using the key to underline where you have identified the different features.

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Usain Bolt

Biography

So, how do you become the best sprinter of all time?

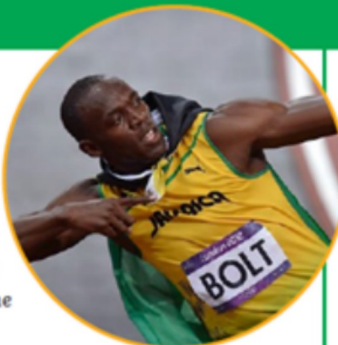
Usain St. Leo Bolt once said, 'When I was young, I didn't really think about anything other than sports.' Whilst at secondary school, Usain focused on sprinting, which led him to win his first High School Championships medal. Since then he has set new world records, overcome injuries, won many medals, become a hero in his home country of Jamaica and he hasn't even finished yet!

Usain was born on 21st August 1986, in Jamaica. As a child, he really enjoyed playing football and cricket.

Bolt took part in his first race whilst at primary school, however, at that time he preferred playing cricket. In an interview, he once said that if he hadn't become a sprinter, he would have loved to be a fast bowler like his cricketing hero, Waqar Younis.

At high school, Usain focused on sprinting and won his first silver medal in the 2001 High School Championships. His talent caught the eye of former Jamaican Olympic sprinter Pablo McNeil, who went on to become his coach. Pablo would sometimes get frustrated with Bolt as he didn't always take his training seriously and liked playing practical jokes.

The 2001 World Youth Championships was Usain's first appearance on the world stage. He didn't win any medals but he did set a new personal best in the 200m race. The World Junior Championships came next and it was here that Bolt became the youngest World Junior gold medallist.



Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2008 Beijing	100m, 200m, relay	Gold
2012 London	100m, 200m, relay	Gold
2016 Rio De Janeiro	100m, 200m, relay	Gold

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In 2004, Usain became the first junior sprinter to run 200m in under 20 seconds. It was then that he turned professional and was given a place on the Jamaican Olympic team. He went to the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004 but a leg injury stopped him from winning any medals.

As the years passed by, Usain took his sport more seriously and began to train harder to win events. At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, he broke more world records and won gold in the 100m, 200m and relay events. This was followed by the World Championships in Berlin, where he improved his times even more.

Bolt competed in the 100m, 200m and relay at the London 2012 Olympic Games and won gold in all three events again. After the races, a fellow runner said, 'There's no doubt he's the greatest sprinter of all time.'

During the 2016 Rio Olympics, Bolt yet again won gold in all three races (100m, 200m and relay) and was also awarded the 'triple-triple' meaning he had won gold in 3 events in 3 Olympic Games. However this amazing achievement didn't last long as in 2017, Bolt and his team mates were stripped of the gold medals from the 100m relay in the Beijing Games due to one of his teammates being disqualified for taking a banned substance.

In 2017, at the World Athletics Championships, Bolt's success didn't continue. He won a bronze medal in one event and in another, he collapsed on the track with a hamstring injury and had to be helped across the finish line by his teammates. This was Bolt's final ever race.



ROALD DAHL

Roald Dahl was born on 13th September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. His parents were from Norway. He had an older sister called Astri, but in 1920, she died when she was only 7 years old. Roald's father was so sad that he fell ill from pneumonia. A few weeks later, he also died.



His mother was a great story teller and had a fabulous memory. Roald remembered many tales she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters.

Although Roald had a happy home life, he had an unhappy time at his school in Wales, and was often 'caned' for bad behaviour. His mother sent him to boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare. He was just nine years old when he arrived at St. Peters School and met the all-powerful Matron who "disliked small boys very much indeed" and the cane-wielding Headmaster.

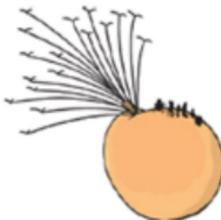


At the age of 13, Roald attended Repton Public School in Derbyshire. He was happier here. He was brilliant at sports and was very good at boxing. The boys at the school were sometimes asked to be chocolate testers for a famous chocolate company and this experience later

inspired the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

Over the next few years, Roald Dahl worked in Africa for an oil company and then enlisted in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

In 1940, Roald Dahl was posted to Libya where he flew a Gloster Gladiator plane. He crashed in the Western Desert in North Africa, and suffered such severe injuries to his head and back that he had to stay in hospital in Egypt for six months. He returned to the RAF but,



after a while, he began suffering terrible headaches from his accident. This meant he had to leave because he could not fly planes anymore.

In 1942, Roald was posted to Washington in the USA to work as an assistant air attaché. He met the author C.S. Forester, who suggested that Roald should write about his experiences flying planes in the desert. Roald started writing articles for newspapers.

He met and married actress Patricia Neal. They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, England. He wrote many of his famous stories there. Roald Dahl and Patricia Neal had five children; Olivia, Tessa, Theo, Ophelia and Lucy. However, Olivia tragically died at the age of 7 from an illness.

Roald Dahl started telling his amazing stories to his children at bedtime. He realised how much his own children enjoyed his stories and decided to write them down for all children to enjoy. 'James and the Giant Peach' was his first published children's book.

Roald Dahl had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He said, "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week. You'll find you have to look up at all these giants around you who are always telling you what to do and what not to do."

He had a passion for encouraging children to read. He believed that children should be "comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."



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Biography

J.K. Rowling is the best-selling living author in the UK and her books are popular all over the world. Rowling has described writers such as Jane Austen and C.S. Lewis as those who have inspired her the most.

She was born Joanne Rowling on 31st July 1965, in Gloucestershire. She enjoyed writing fantasy stories from an early age, reading them to her younger sister. As a teenager, Rowling began studying French and Classics at Exeter University. Having graduated, she moved to London to work as a researcher for Amnesty International, an organisation which works to protect human rights around the world. She also lived and worked in Manchester.

It was in 1990, when Joanne was on a delayed train journey from Manchester to London that the idea for a series of books came into her head. During the writing of the first Harry Potter book, Joanne's mother died and this huge loss affected her writing. Rowling decided to include more detail about the loss of the main character's parents as she knew how it felt. Rowling used her life as inspiration for many other ideas in the book, for example, her parents met at Kings Cross Station, which is where Harry Potter catches the train to school.

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Name:
Joanne Rowling

Born:
31st July 1965

Place of birth:
Gloucestershire, UK

Occupation:
Writer, Author



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J.K. Rowling Fact File

Her real name wasn't used as the publishers didn't think that boys would want to read a book written by a female author. Shortly after being published, the book won its first award and proved to be very popular. She later released the next book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets', followed by 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'. It was the fourth book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire', which broke sales records in both the UK and America. Rowling was also named Author of the Year at the 2000 British Book Awards and awarded an OBE for writing such popular children's books.

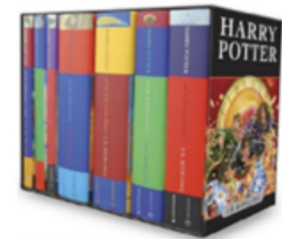


Photo courtesy of vegastroightedge @ flickr - granted under creative commons license

The final book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows', was released in 2007 and became the fastest-selling book in history. Each book has also been made into a successful film. Since the end of the Harry Potter stories, Rowling has written other books linked to the series. She has also written stories for adults and continues to embark on other projects.

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