

# Third Grade

ELA

Reading and Writing - Opinion



Dear Families,

We are beginning a new unit of study - biography and opinion! The word "biography" comes from Greek words meaning "life" and "write." Studying biography gives students the opportunity to read and learn about various inspirational people who have made a difference to many. As writers of biographies, students will express their opinions about the subjects they write about and include researched facts and details that highlight the subjects' achievements and influences.

In this unit of study, students will explore the purposes and features of biographies as both readers and writers. As students listen to the various mentor texts, they will examine the differences and similarities among these features and how they influence readers. Students will analyze the structure of biographies and take note of how some chronicle a person's life, from birth to death, while others focus on a particular time or achievement.

Students will also see how different biographers present the important events, accomplishments, struggles, and personal traits of a person's life, as well as how they use word choices and tone to convey their admiration for and opinions of the people they write about.

The biographies students publish will express their opinions of and information about subjects of their choice.

We are looking forward to the learning we'll do in this exciting unit!

# Our Biographies

Title and Author of Biography	Focus of Our Biographies (with information about text structure)
<i>The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps</i> by Jeanette Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers some of Jane Goodall's childhood and her fascination with animals at a young age</li> <li>Mostly covers Jane's adult life and her work in the jungles with chimps</li> <li>"A Note About This Story" gives more insight into Jane's life and why the author chose to focus mostly on her adult life</li> </ul>
<i>Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote</i> by Tanya Lee Stone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Author's Note provides background information to readers</li> <li>Childhood gives background as to why she became an advocate in her adult life</li> <li>Covers adulthood and her influence on American government</li> </ul>
<i>The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss</i> by Kathleen Krull	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ted Geisel's childhood and young adulthood are the focus of the story (without chapter breaks)</li> <li>Section at the end covers his whole life in brief chronological order</li> <li>Includes a time line of all his publications</li> </ul>
<i>If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks</i> by Faith Ringgold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative with a fictional main character who learns about the influence of Rosa Parks</li> <li>Takes readers on a journey through Rosa's childhood to her days as an activist and into her work later in her life</li> </ul>
<i>Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man</i> by David A. Adler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefly gives background information about Lou Gehrig's childhood and early days in baseball</li> <li>Focuses mostly on his time as a New York Yankee and his accomplishments as a player</li> <li>Discusses the illness that eventually took his life</li> </ul>
<i>Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau</i> by Jennifer Berne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers Jacques Cousteau's childhood and passion for the sea and film at a young age</li> <li>Discusses his underwater fascination as an adult and the work he did to preserve the waters of the world</li> </ul>
<i>Mother to Tigers</i> by George Ella Lyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discusses the adult life of Helen Frances Theresa Delaney Martini</li> <li>Author's Note gives more information about Helen's life as a child and young adult</li> </ul>
<i>Night Flight: Amelia Earhart Crosses the Atlantic</i> by Robert Burleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discusses the flight of Amelia Earhart across the Atlantic Ocean</li> <li>Afterword gives more information about Amelia's childhood, other occupations, and other flights she took, including the infamous one that led to her disappearance</li> <li>Written in poetic verse</li> </ul>
<i>A Picture Book of Cesar Chavez</i> by David A. Adler and Michael S. Adler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers the entire life of Cesar Chavez</li> <li>Includes a time line with important dates</li> <li>Includes an Author's Note with extra information regarding Cesar, his family, and his accomplishments</li> </ul>
<i>Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates</i> by Jonah Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly focuses on Roberto Clemente's adult years playing professional baseball</li> <li>Written in a poetic way with unusual line breaks rather than traditional paragraphs</li> </ul>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Reading Response to Biography

1. Biography (Title): \_\_\_\_\_

2. What I learned about (name the person) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. My opinion on \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

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because \_\_\_\_\_

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4. If I had to describe \_\_\_\_\_

in one word, it would be \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

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# Features of Biographies

- They are written in the past tense.
- They are written in the third person.
- They are organized chronologically, often using linking words and phrases to connect ideas and show the passage of time.
- Some are about a person's entire life; others are about just a part of a person's life.
- Biographers' feelings or opinions about their subjects are stated and often implied.
- They include reasons, examples, and details to show the biography subject is admirable and often viewed as a role model or hero.
- Important dates are included (e.g., birth, death, times of significant achievements, challenges, time lines).
- Important places are described (e.g., settings of birth, childhood, work, family events, schools, death).
- Significant people are introduced (e.g., family members, neighbors, friends, challengers, teachers).
- Important events in people's childhoods and/or careers are explained.
- Interesting details about the subject's personalities are incorporated.
- Challenges and struggles that people faced are outlined.
- Achievements, honors, and awards the people earned are included.
- Photographs and/or illustrations are included.
- Quotes and dialogue are included.
- Often includes an Author's Note, Epilogue, Bibliographies, Acknowledgments, or other features that give more information about the subject's life or the author's process.
- They often conclude with the author's big idea or opinion and feelings about the subject.

# Keeping Track of Our Biographies

Person	Features in Biography	Why This Person Is Important	Attributes That Describe the Person
Jane Goodall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood experiences that reveal character traits</li> <li>• Quotes</li> <li>• Third person</li> <li>• Influential people in her life</li> <li>• Important events told in chronological order</li> <li>• Important places</li> <li>• Author's Note</li> </ul>	Jane studied the lives of chimpanzees and worked to help preserve the habitats of chimpanzees. She took the knowledge she gained in her travels and brought the information to others in the world to educate them about the lives of chimpanzees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peaceful</li> <li>• Persistent</li> <li>• Brave</li> <li>• Outspoken</li> <li>• Dedicated</li> <li>• Observant</li> </ul>
Ted Geisel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood experiences that reveal character traits</li> <li>• Influential people in his life</li> <li>• Important events told in chronological order</li> <li>• Important places</li> <li>• Author's Note</li> <li>• Bibliography</li> <li>• Web sites of interest</li> </ul>	Ted Geisel is one of the most influential children's authors. He has influenced children and adults around the world to love reading. His books have made readers laugh, cry, and think about the world around them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative</li> <li>• Artistic</li> <li>• Curious</li> <li>• Playful</li> <li>• Unique</li> <li>• Determined</li> </ul>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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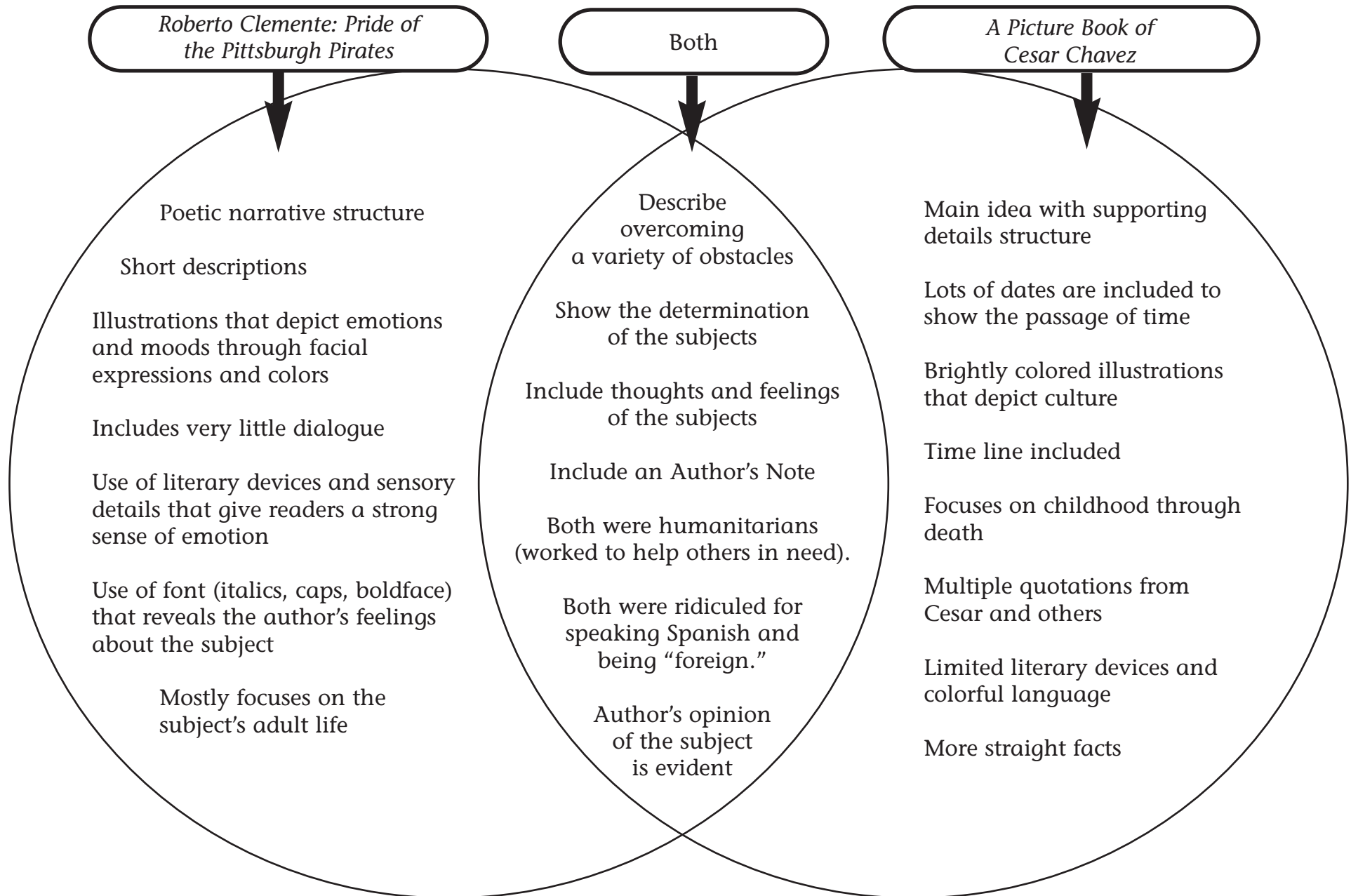
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# The Different Styles of Biographies



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## People Who Have Made a Difference

**Leaders of Civil Rights, Human Rights, Women's Rights, Animal Rights, and Environmental Rights**

- Who has done something to make the world a better place by helping others?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Who has done things to make people care about planet Earth?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Who has helped keep peace in the world?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Who has spoken out for others so they could have rights that they were not granted before?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Who has helped people work together for a common cause?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Who has had the courage to take a stand against injustice?

\_\_\_\_\_

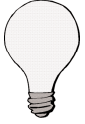
- Who has worked to make sure that people are safe and out of harm's way?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Who has fought to protect the rights of groups who are less fortunate?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Changing the Way the World Works



Invention or discovery	Person who invented or discovered it	Why I find it interesting	What I wonder about it
<b>Example: Electricity</b>	<b>Benjamin Franklin</b>	I use electricity every day of my life—in school, at home, when I go out to dinner, and when I go to a friend's house. I use lights, computers, televisions, and other devices that wouldn't run without electricity.	How did he discover it? When? How old was he? Was he a scientist? What did people do without electricity?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Passion, My Person

Use these questions to help you think about people who inspire you. Then choose a few of the subjects to write about in your Writer's Notebook in more detail.

1. What sports do you like to play? Is there an athlete who inspires you to be better at that sport? Who do you love watching in that sport? Why?
2. What activities do you love? Are there people whom you study to help you get better at them? Singers? Artists? Dancers? Actors? Authors?
3. Are there clubs to which you belong? Who are the role models you discuss at your club meetings?
4. Is there a cause about which you feel passionate? Are there issues that you discuss with your friends or wish you could change? Who has helped make those changes in the past? Animal rights activists? Environmental protectors? Politicians?
5. Are there people you try to model your life after? Why do you admire these people so much?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Biography Research Homework

Date of Accomplishment: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the accomplishment? (include interesting details) \_\_\_\_\_

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What word(s) would you use to describe your subject regarding this accomplishment? Why?

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Date of Struggle or Obstacle: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the struggle or obstacle? (include interesting details) \_\_\_\_\_

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What word(s) would you use to describe your subject regarding this struggle or obstacle? Why?

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Dear Families,

We have been hard at work on our Biography Unit of Study. After days of reading biographies and generating ideas, your child has carefully selected the following subject for his or her biography: \_\_\_\_\_.

In school, we will be researching important events and influences in the subject's life. Your child will be focusing on important accomplishments as well as the struggles his or her subject faced. The students will be paying close attention to dates, facts, details, and attributes.

For homework this week, I would like you to help your child research information about one accomplishment and one obstacle of his or her subject's life. The information that you find will be added to your child's writing. Try to use a child-friendly nonfiction book and/or web site your child can read and comprehend.

Please help your child complete the following handout, and please send in the resources you find (i.e., print out the relevant information from a web site, article, or book). Please make sure that your child brings both the handout and resources back to school by \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your help with this assignment. We are all VERY excited about publishing our first biographies!

Sincerely,

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Who Do I Want to Write About and Why?

- Do I think this subject is a hero? Why? What about this person's life is heroic?

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- Do I think this subject's story is inspirational—a story that readers can learn from? Why? What will readers learn if I tell this person's story?

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- Do I think this subject's life is remarkable in some way? What way? Why does this matter to readers?

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- Do I think this person changed the world and made it a better place? Why is this so?

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- Do I have a strong opinion about this person? Why is it important for readers to know his or her story?

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- How easy will it be to find research on this person? Have I seen books about this person in our classroom, school, or the public library? Will I find information about this person on web sites?

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My Subject Is \_\_\_\_\_

# Lists That Work

1. Important dates (birthdays, anniversaries, special events)
2. Special events (championship games, having a child, getting married, getting a job, singing for the Queen of England)
3. Places visited (cities, museums, countries)
4. Places lived (cities, streets, counties, countries, houses, apartments, boats, hotels)
5. Important or influential people (family members, friends, teammates, co-workers, heroes)
6. Awards received
7. Jobs (kinds of jobs, how many, and when)
8. Publications
9. Struggles (illnesses, loss, fighting against society)
10. Good deeds

What else can you think of?



# Attributes

adventurous

ambitious

artistic

brave

bright

brilliant

confident

considerate

courageous

creative

dedicated

determined

efficient

expert

friendly

honest

hopeful

humorous

influential

intelligent

observant

outspoken

peaceful

persistent

playful

polite

positive

responsible

serious

skillful

successful

talented

thoughtful

unique

wise

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# What a Challenge

My subject's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Struggles or challenges faced in his or her life (childhood, young adulthood, adulthood)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Attributes that describe my subject based upon his or her struggles and triumphs or accomplishments:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the struggles and accomplishments of my subject and the attributes that describe him or her, my opinion about my subject is that \_\_\_\_\_

because (provide reasons to support your opinion) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Who Else Matters?

*REMEMBER: Include the person's name, the person's relationship to your subject, and why the person was important to your subject's life.*

1. Does your subject have brothers and sisters? Perhaps a favorite brother or sister? How did his or her brothers and sisters help your subject?
2. How did your subject's family help him or her get to where he or she is today? Or did a lack of family move his or her life in fascinating directions?
3. Does your subject have a best friend or friends who supported him or her?
4. Who does your subject work with who might be important to his or her life?
  - teammates
  - coworkers
  - groups (organizations, companies, charities)
  - students
  - teachers
  - doctors
  - writers
  - artists
5. Who has your subject helped?
6. Who has helped your subject?
7. Who does your subject know in his or her community—people who have had an impact on your subject's life?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who Else Matters? (Adapted)

1. Did \_\_\_\_\_ family help him or her? How?

2. Did \_\_\_\_\_ have a best friend that helped him or her? How?

3. Who did \_\_\_\_\_ work with who was important in his or her life?

- teammates
- coworkers
- groups (organizations, companies, charities)
- students
- teachers
- doctors
- writers
- artists

4. Who helped \_\_\_\_\_?

5. Who did \_\_\_\_\_ help?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Importance of a Quote

Person Who Said the Quote	The Quote	What These Words Say About Your Subject	How This Shows That Your Subject Is Important to the World and Society
Elizabeth Cady Stanton	"Have it, we must. Use it, we will."	Elizabeth was determined to help get women the right to vote. She wanted women to use their vote as their voice to change laws in this country. She wasn't going to give up!	Elizabeth courageously fought to give women in this country the right to vote. She changed the history of women and girls in the United States forever. She is a hero to all!

# Introducing My Subject

## *Tips for creating your opening:*

- Describe a scene from your subject's life using words that show your subject's historical importance, perseverance, and/or bravery.
- Use a powerful line, fact, quote, etc. about your subject that shows the type of person he or she was or is.
- Use interesting font (**bold**, CAPITAL LETTERS, *italics*, etc.) to bring emphasis to certain words that represent your subject.
- Use words and examples that evoke emotion, draw your readers in, and help them understand the type of person your subject was or is.
- Name and define three attributes that you think best describe your subject.
- Describe the beginning of your subject's journey, including time and place.
- After you introduce your subject, state your opinion about your subject so it is clear to readers how you feel.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Body of My Biography – Outline

**Name of My Subject:** \_\_\_\_\_

I. **Opening:** You have already written this on lined paper. This should be in your Writer's Notebook.

## II. **Body Paragraph One:**

First important date or event (something early on in your subject's life): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Important Supporting Details:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

## III. **Body Paragraph Two:**

Next important date or event (going in time or chronological order): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Important Supporting Details:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. **Body Paragraph Three:**

Next important date or event (going in time or chronological order): \_\_\_\_\_

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Important Supporting Details:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

#### V. **Body Paragraph Four:**

Next important date or event (going in time or chronological order): \_\_\_\_\_

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Important Supporting Details:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

#### VI. **Closing:** We will work on this soon.

*Note: This outline is for a biography with a four-paragraph body. Your biography may have more than four body paragraphs. Make an outline that fits your biography and your needs.*



# Ways to End Biographies

Title of Biography	Type of Ending
<p><i>Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates</i> by Jonah Winter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explains how the subject's influence and "spirit" continue and why the subject is important to the world</li> </ul>
<p><i>Mother to Tigers</i> by George Ella Lyon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explains how the subject's influence and "spirit" continue and why the subject is important to the world</li> </ul>
<p><i>The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps</i> by Jeanette Winter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explains why the subject is important to the world</li> </ul>
<p><i>Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote</i> by Tanya Lee Stone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describes the attributes of the subject</li> <li>Explains why the subject is important to our country</li> </ul>
<p><i>A Picture Book of Cesar Chavez</i> by David A. Adler and Michael S. Adler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses a powerful quote to express the attributes and influence of the subject</li> </ul>
<p><i>Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man</i> by David A. Adler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses a powerful quote to express the attributes and influence of the subject</li> </ul>

# Link Opinions and Reasons

Cesar Chavez was a courageous and determined man. *For instance*, when he was a schoolboy, he was hit by his teacher for speaking his native language of Spanish; *however, in order to* learn, he continued to attend school. Cesar was *also* courageous *because*, when he was 15 and his father was hurt in a car accident, Cesar had to drop out of school *in order to* make money for the family to survive. *In 1952*, when Cesar was a young man, he decided to speak out and urge people to register to vote. *Even though* he was frightened at first and was often yelled at and argued with, he would not give up! *Additionally, in 1958* Cesar organized a march for farm workers to receive better working conditions. *After* 13 months of Cesar speaking out and fighting for fair work conditions, the workers got what they deserved!

# Transition Words and Phrases

Remember to use a variety of transition words and phrases to keep your readers interested and your opinions clear.

Additionally

After

After all of that

Afterward

All the while

Along the way

Also

Another reason

As soon as

As well

At \_\_\_\_\_ years old

Because

Before

Before long

Besides

By the time \_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_ years old

During all of this

Earlier

Eventually

Finally

For example

For instance

Furthermore

Immediately

In addition

In the meantime

Later

Later on

Meanwhile

Next

Not a moment too soon

Not long after

Now

Once

One day

One more reason

Right after

Shortly after that

Since

Soon

Still

Subsequently

Until

What's more

When

While

While this was happening

You can also use dates (May 5, 1925;  
In 1925) or ages (At 13 years old . . .)

# Dates and Details

Subject	Date	Details
Example: Cesar Chavez	June, 1952	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fred Ross is sent by the San Jose CSO (Community Service Organization) to register people to vote. – <b>Specific Names</b></li> <li>• Cesar says, "He changed my life." – <b>Quote</b></li> <li>• Ross speaks about the power of poor people and their voices. – <b>Describes action</b></li> <li>• Cesar went door-to-door and urged people to register to vote. – <b>Describes action, vivid verbs</b></li> <li>• At first he was so frightened he couldn't talk. – <b>Describes his feelings</b></li> <li>• "Little by little I got confidence." – <b>Quote</b></li> </ul>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Time Line

A time line of \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Biography Revision Checklist

Must-Have Items in Draft (Put a ✓)	Self-Check	Partner Check
Engaging introduction that introduces the subject and states my opinion		
Paragraphs with a main idea and supporting facts and details		
Quotes from the subject and/or others who knew him or her well		
Important influences in the subject's life (family, friends, teachers, coaches, etc.)		
Challenges or struggles the subject has faced		
Accomplishments or successes of the subject		
Ending or closing that demonstrates one of the techniques used in our unit books		
Linking words and phrases that connect ideas		
Meaningful title		
Neatly planned-out cover that reflects my subject's life		
Optional Items in Draft (Put a ✓)	Self-Check	Partner Check
Special Thanks or Dedication		
Illustrations and/or photographs		
Author's Note		
About the Author		
Time Line		
Web sites or books for more information		
Sources or Bibliography		
How to keep the work of your subject going ( <i>See the example in <u>Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau</u></i> )		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Biography Editing Checklist

Put a check by each item that you have edited in your biography. (You may not have every item in your biography.)

<b>Names:</b>	
<i>Have significant people been included?</i>	
Are all names spelled correctly?	
Are all names and titles capitalized?	
Are titles abbreviated correctly?	
<b>Dates:</b>	
<i>Do all major events have a date to go with them?</i>	
Are the months capitalized?	
Is there a comma between the date and the year?	
Are the events and dates sequenced chronologically?	
<b>Places:</b>	
<i>Have important places been included?</i>	
Are the names of places spelled correctly?	
Are the names of places capitalized?	
Is there a comma between the city and the state/country?	
<b>Dialogue/Quotes:</b>	
Are there quotation marks around what each person said?	
Are punctuation marks placed correctly?	

# Using and Abbreviating Social and Professional Titles

Title	Abbreviation	Book With Examples
Doctor	Dr.	<i>The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps</i> <i>The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss</i> <i>If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks</i>
Senator	Sen.	<i>A Picture Book of Cesar Chavez</i>
Missus	Mrs.	<i>If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks</i>
Mister	Mr.	<i>If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks</i> <i>Mother to Tigers</i>
Miss	(none)	<i>If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks</i>
Mayor	(none)	<i>Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man</i>
<b>Other titles you may run across—add book titles</b>		
President	Pres.	
Governor	Gov.	
General	Gen.	
Colonel	Col.	



# Cover Me!

Title of Biography	Features of the Title	Cover
<i>The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not name the subject first</li> <li>Has a subtitle</li> <li>The subtitle is intriguing and makes a comparison</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sketch of one scene from the book</li> <li>Border used to frame the scene</li> <li>Picture shows the setting</li> <li>Fancy font</li> </ul>
<i>Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First part has only the first name and makes us wonder</li> <li>Next section has full name and why she was important</li> <li>Has a subtitle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picture of the subject with a blue background</li> <li>Symbols used as clues about her importance (flag, sash with “Votes for Women” on it)</li> </ul>
<i>Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Names the subject in the first section</li> <li>Uses an important quote for the subtitle – makes us wonder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows the subject up close in his baseball uniform (clue to who he was)</li> <li>Picture shows the baseball setting</li> </ul>
<i>Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starts with the subject’s nickname</li> <li>Subtitle underneath names the subject</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picture of the subject in a setting that reveals who he was</li> <li>Black border and circle used to frame the scene</li> <li>Large, bright font</li> </ul>
<i>Mother to Tigers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title is what she is known for – nickname</li> <li>Reveals what the subject did and why she was important</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject’s face is not pictured</li> <li>Focus is on her work, not her face (close-up illustration)</li> <li>Fancy font</li> </ul>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# What Will My Cover Be?

After looking at the covers and titles of various biographies, answer the following questions to help you decide on your title and cover illustration.

Title questions:

- 1) Does your subject have a nickname? Could you make up a clever nickname for your subject? If so, what would it be?

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- 2) Do you want your subject's first and last name to come first or second in your title? Why?

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- 3) What did your subject do that made him or her so important to the world? Write a short phrase (4–6 words).

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- 4) How would you describe your subject in one or two words? What attributes describe him or her?

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Using the information above, create two possible titles for your biography below:

Title 1:

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Title 2:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cover Illustration questions:

1) Did your subject wear special clothing, a uniform, etc.? What was it?

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2) Did your subject have a special setting or place that influenced his or her life, job, etc.? If so, why was this setting or place influential?

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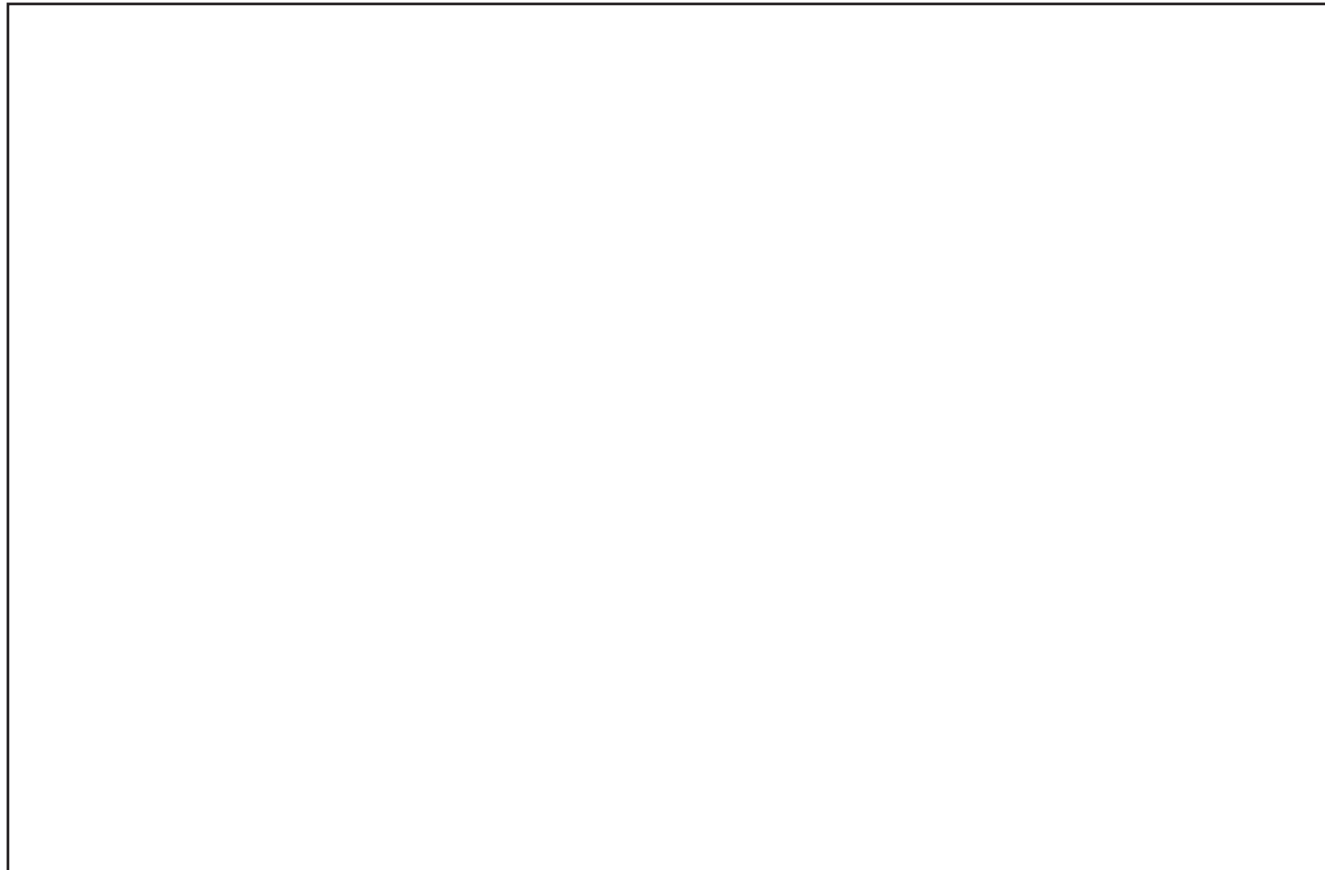
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3) Do you want to show your subject close up or as part of a larger illustration? Will he or she be doing something?

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Draw a quick sketch of your cover below. Add your chosen title on the cover.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Life As a Biographer

- 1) What is the most interesting thing you have learned about your subject? Why is it so interesting? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Were there any surprises or unexpected discoveries that shocked or delighted you as you worked? If so, what were they? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What is your opinion of your subject now that you have finished your entire biography? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Now that the biography is finished, is there something more you would have liked to add to it if you had the chance? If so, what would you add? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What was your favorite part of the biography writing process? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Features of a Biography**

- They are written in the past tense
- They are written in the third person
- They are organized chronologically
- Some are about a person's entire life; others are about just a part of a person's life
- Biographers' feelings or opinions about their subjects are stated and often implied.
- They include reasons, examples, and details to show the biography subject is admirable and often viewed as a role model or hero.
- Important dates are included
- Important places are described
- Significant people are introduced
- Important events in people's childhoods and/or careers are explained
- Interesting details about the subject's personalities are incorporated
- Challenges and struggles that people faced are outlined
- Achievements, honors, and awards the people earned are included
- Photographs and/or illustrations are included
- Quotes and dialogue are often included
- Often includes an Author's Note, Epilogue, Bibliographies, Acknowledgments, or other features that give more information about the subject's life or the author's process.

Biographies . . .

What We Know or Think We Know About Biographies	What We Have Learned About Biographies

# Thinking About Our Reading

Biography Title: \_\_\_\_\_

What I learned about \_\_\_\_\_ (Subject)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

One word to describe this person would be \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Making Connections to Think More Deeply

Example from Text	My Connection
	<i>This reminds me of . . .</i> <i>This makes me think about . . .</i> <i>I can't believe . . .</i>



Chronological Structure
For _____

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ANALYZING CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

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Which Person?	What are the challenges or obstacles that this person faced?	What did he/she do?	What is an attribute or character trait that he/she had to help this person overcome the challenge?

## Character Traits

adventurous	efficient	passionate
ambitious	expert	polite
artistic	friendly	positive
brave	honest	responsible
bright	hopeful	serious
brilliant	humorous	skillful
confident	influential	successful
considerate	intelligent	talented
courageous	observant	thoughtful
creative	outspoken	unique
dedicated	peaceful	wise
determined	persistent	