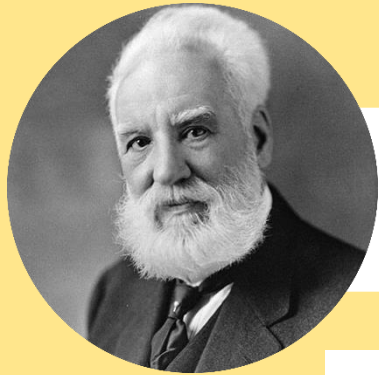


Biographies – a reminder!

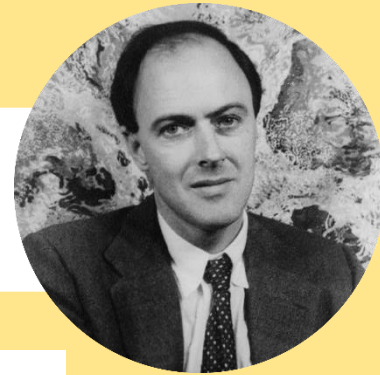
A biography gives **facts** about a **person's life**. It is not written by the subject of the book but by an author who has done their research and knows a great deal about that person. Biographies are written in the **third person** and can be written about someone who is no longer alive. A biography 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. The biography may also include direct quotes from the subject or quotes from others about the subject.

Famous Faces Task



**Alexander
Graham Bell**



Roald Dahl

Is this biographical or autobiographical writing?
Match up the subject to the picture.

He was born in Wales on 13th September 1916. His father died when he was 3 years old and he was brought up by his mother. He was quite unhappy at boarding school which gave him inspiration for some of his stories.

He had many inventions, some of these included the metal detector, the audiometer (a device used to detect hearing problems), he invented techniques which helped in teaching speech to the deaf and also made a device to help locate icebergs!

Famous Faces Task



Anne Frank



Jessica Ennis

**Is this biographical or autobiographical writing?
Match up the subject to the picture.**

I don't think I shall ever really feel at home in this house, but that does not mean that I loathe it here, it is more like being on vacation in a very peculiar boarding house... The Secret Annexe is an ideal hiding place. Although it leans to one side and is damp, you'd never find such a comfortable hiding place anywhere in Amsterdam, not even in the whole of Holland. Our little room perhaps looked bare at first with nothing on the walls; but thanks to Daddy who had brought my film star collection and postcards beforehand and with aid of paste, pot and brush, I have transformed the walls into one gigantic picture.

I am crying. I am a Sheffield schoolgirl writing in her diary about the bullies awaiting me tomorrow. They stand menacingly by the gates and lurk unseen in my head, mocking my size and status. They make a small girl shrink, and I feel insecure and frightened. I pour the feelings out into words on the page, as if exposing them in some way will help, but nobody sees my diary. It is kept in my room as a hidden tale of hurt. Fast forward two decades and I am crying again. I am standing in a cavernous arena in London. Suddenly, the pain and suffering and frustration give way to a flood of overwhelming emotion.

Biography Activity

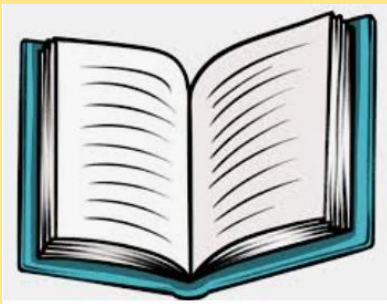
Interview a member of your family, or a friend, to find out some things about their life. You are going to write a short biography of their life. Try to encourage them to tell you the information in **chronological order**. Make some quick notes using bullet points.

Then spend the rest of the time writing a paragraph or two about their life. Read it back to them and see if they think it matches what they told you.



Points to mention:

- **Where and when they were born**
- **Their family**
- **Significant events in their life** and feelings about these events (e.g. starting school, jobs, moving house, achievements etc.)



Biography Activity 2



Research a person from history/sport who you admire and write a biographical account of their life.

Remember to include as many of the features of a biography as you can. Use the checklist to help you.

- Plan your work
 - Write a draft
- Edit and write a final version