

Autobiographies and Biographies



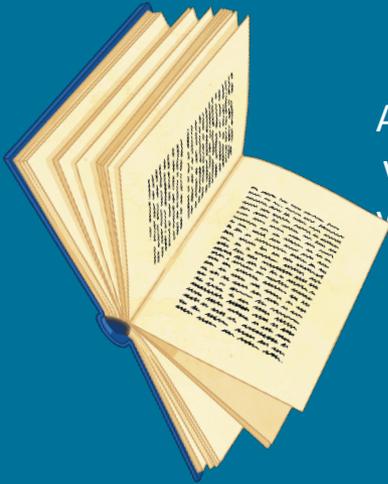
Learning Objective

To understand the difference between an autobiography and a biography.

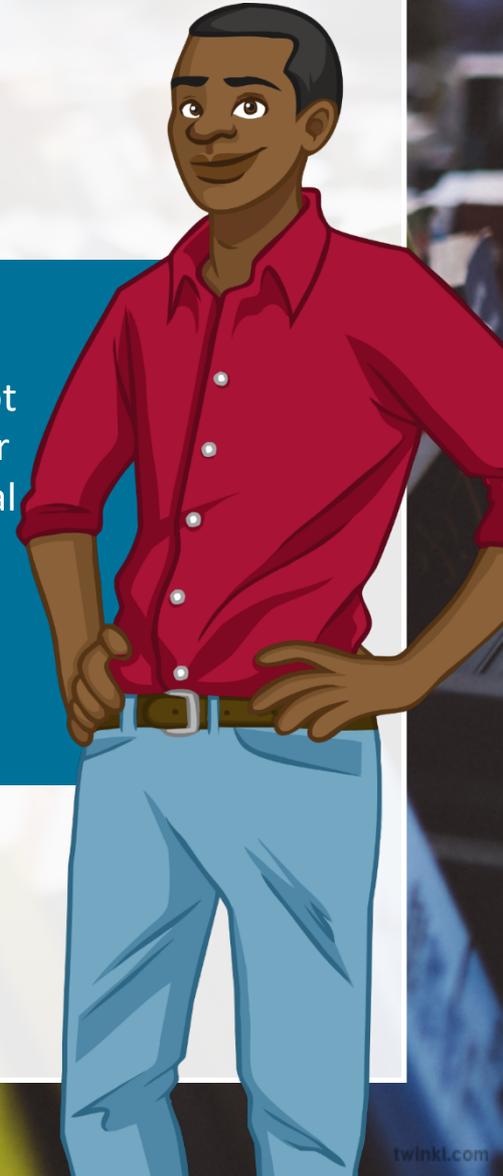
Success Criteria for the week:

- Explain features of both autobiographies and biographies, analysing what is the same or different about the two styles.
- Write in an autobiographical style.
- Write in a biographical style.

Biographies



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.



Other Important Features of a Biography

A biography is a life story written in chronological order, which means that starts with the earliest information and then ends with the most up-to-date information.

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 (things the person said) from the subject or quotes (things that other people said) from others about the subject.



What Does the Prefix 'Auto' Mean?



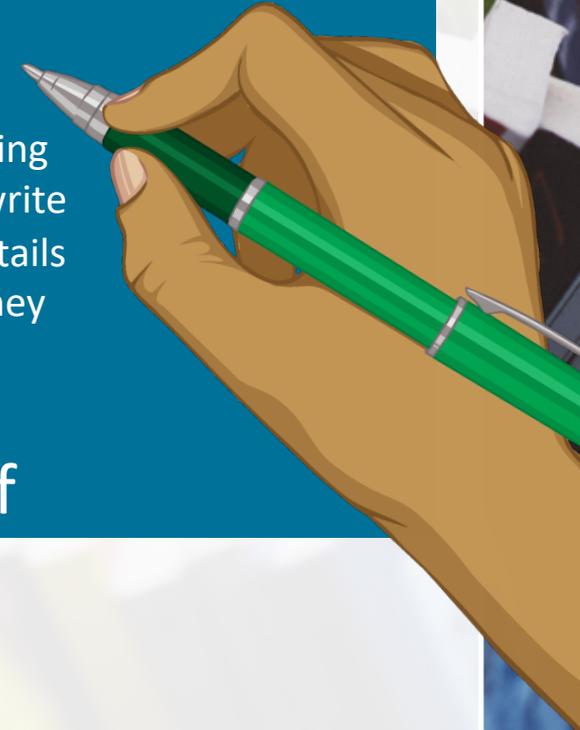
Autobiographies

'Auto' means 'self' therefore an autobiography is **self-written**. It is an account of someone's life, written by the person themselves, in chronological order.



An autobiography is different to a biography because it is written in the first person, explaining important events in their life. The subject may write about what has influenced them and include details of their feelings during different experiences they have had.

To remember the
difference ... auto = self



Quick Quiz

Biographical or Autobiographical Writing?
How do you know?

He was born and grew up in London, moving to France at the age of 13.

I never enjoyed writing until I met my idol, Jacqueline Wilson, who ignited my interest.

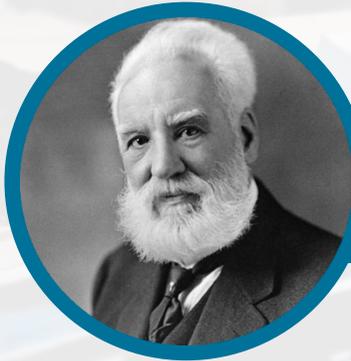
“She never could sit still at school!” was the comment made by Mrs Alice Hall, an old teacher of hers.

He died at the age of 98, with his family at his bedside.

Dancing became my passion. I would dance every day and used to get angry and frustrated when I was told off for practising in the living room. I think my mother was always more concerned about me knocking over her priceless ornaments..

Famous Faces Task

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



Alexander
Graham Bell

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.



Roald Dahl

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

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



Anne Frank

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.



Jessica Ennis

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.