

Class 3's home learning, w/b 8.6.20, Literacy (writing)

Can I write a biography?

Your writing task this week is to write a biography! A biography is a text written about somebody else's life. It is written by you, but this time you will use the **third** person (he, she, they, them, etc) because you are writing about somebody else's life.

Activity 1

Read a short biography about JK Rowling. This will give you an example of how a biography could be written. Can you pick out any of the features from the check list?

Activity 2

Then, it's your turn to have a go at writing a biography To help you, I have included a biography interview template.

You can choose to interview someone you know (like a family member or friend), or to do some research about someone else's life.

As always, just have a go and try your best!

Mrs Cameron :-)

Can I write a biography?

Activity 1

This page does not need to be printed. Read this biography of JK Rowling. Then, look at the checklist - can you pick out any features?

J.K. Rowling Fact File

Biography

Going from unemployment to being a multi-millionaire in the space of 5 years, J.K. Rowling's story is almost as amazing as Harry Potter's! She 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.

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 - she had no job but dedicated her time to finishing her book. When the story was finally completed, 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 incorporated her grandmother's name, 'Kathleen' into her initials. Her real name wasn't

Name:

Joanne Rowling

Born:

31st July 1965

Place of birth:

Gloucestershire, UK

Occupation:

Writer, Author



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J.K. Rowling Fact File

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.



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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.

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.

Can you pick out any of the following in the biography of JK Rowling?

Features of Biography Checklist

Have I...



used a question or interesting opening statement to hook the reader?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
summarised the main events of the person's life in the first paragraph?	<input type="checkbox"/>
written in the past tense?	<input type="checkbox"/>
used third person pronouns?	<input type="checkbox"/>
written about key events in the person's life?	<input type="checkbox"/>
written about key influences in the person's life?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can I write a biography?

Activity 2

This page does not need to be printed. The answers to the questions can be written in your literacy book. Please write the short date you do the work, the above title and 'biography interview', underlining them neatly with a ruler.

Biography Interview

Imagine you are interviewing the person you are writing a biography about. What questions would you ask them?

Use books and the Internet to find answers to the questions below. Then, organise them into paragraphs to write your biography.



Person's name: _____

When were you born?

Where were you born?

What did your parents do?

What are your biggest achievements?

How did this happen?

Which school did you go to?

Did you go to university after school? Where was it?



Biography Interview

What was your first job?

How did this affect your life?

Are you married?

Do you have children?

Where do you live now?

Are there any other famous members of your family? Do you have any famous friends?

Have you won any awards?

How do you think you will be remembered?

How have your achievements affected the lives of others?



Now, take the answers to the questions you asked/researched and write them up into paragraphs. Enjoy!