

BIOGRAPHY WRITING

Grade 5 • Student-Friendly Writing Worksheet + Model Biography

■ What is a Biography?

A **biography** is a piece of writing about a real person's life. It tells important facts about the person's childhood, education, achievements, challenges and contribution to others. A biography is usually written in the **third person** using words such as *he*, *she*, *his* and *her*.

⇒ ■ Features of a Good Biography

No.	Part	What to include
1	Introduction	Name, date/place of birth and why the person is well known.
2	Early Life	Childhood, family, education and early interests.
3	Achievements	Important work, discoveries, awards or accomplishments.
4	Challenges	Difficulties the person faced and how they responded.
5	Legacy	How the person helped, inspired or changed others.
6	Language	Past tense, third person, factual details and time connectives.

■ Plan Your Biography

Choose a real person you admire. Complete the notes first. Then use your notes to write a well-organised biography.

Person's full name:	_____
Date/place of birth:	_____
Childhood / family:	_____ _____
Education / early interests:	_____ _____
Main achievement(s):	_____ _____
Challenges faced:	_____ _____
Important dates/events:	_____ _____
Why is this person important?	_____ _____
What can we learn from this person?	_____ _____

■ Write Your Biography

Use your planning notes. Write **3–5 paragraphs**. Remember to use a clear title, chronological order, past tense and third person.

Useful Time Connectives

At first • During his/her childhood • Later • After that • In 19__ • As a result • Eventually • Throughout his/her life • In the end

Useful Sentence Starters

- _____ was born in _____ on _____.
- As a child, he/she _____.
- He/She became interested in _____ because _____.
- One of his/her greatest achievements was _____.
- However, he/she faced the challenge of _____.
- Despite this, he/she _____.
- He/She is remembered for _____.
- His/Her life teaches us that _____.

Your Title: _____

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■ MODEL BIOGRAPHY

Malala Yousafzai – A Voice for Education

Introduction: Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani education activist who became known around the world for speaking up for girls' right to education. She was born on 12 July 1997 in Mingora, in Pakistan's Swat Valley. From a young age, she loved learning and valued education.

Early Life: Malala grew up in a family that supported education. Her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, was a teacher and ran a school. As a young girl, Malala attended school and developed a strong interest in learning. When girls' education was restricted in her area, she began speaking publicly about the importance of education.

Challenges and Courage: In 2012, Malala was attacked on her way home from school. She survived the attack and continued to speak about the right of every child to receive an education. After recovering, she became an even stronger international voice for education.

Achievements: In 2014, Malala became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She also co-founded the Malala Fund, an organisation that supports girls' education. She later studied at the University of Oxford and continued her work for education.

Legacy: Malala's life has inspired many people around the world. Her story shows how education can give young people confidence and opportunities. She continues to encourage communities and leaders to support every girl's right to learn.

■ Notice the Writer's Choices

- ✓ **Third person:** Malala, she, her
- ✓ **Past tense:** was born, grew up, attended, survived, studied
- ✓ **Chronological order:** childhood → challenge → achievements → legacy
- ✓ **Facts and dates:** important events are supported with specific information
- ✓ **Paragraphing:** each paragraph has a clear purpose

■ Challenge Task

Now write a biography of another person. Try to include at least **3 specific dates or time references**, **2 achievements**, **1 challenge**, and a final sentence explaining what readers can learn from the person's life.