

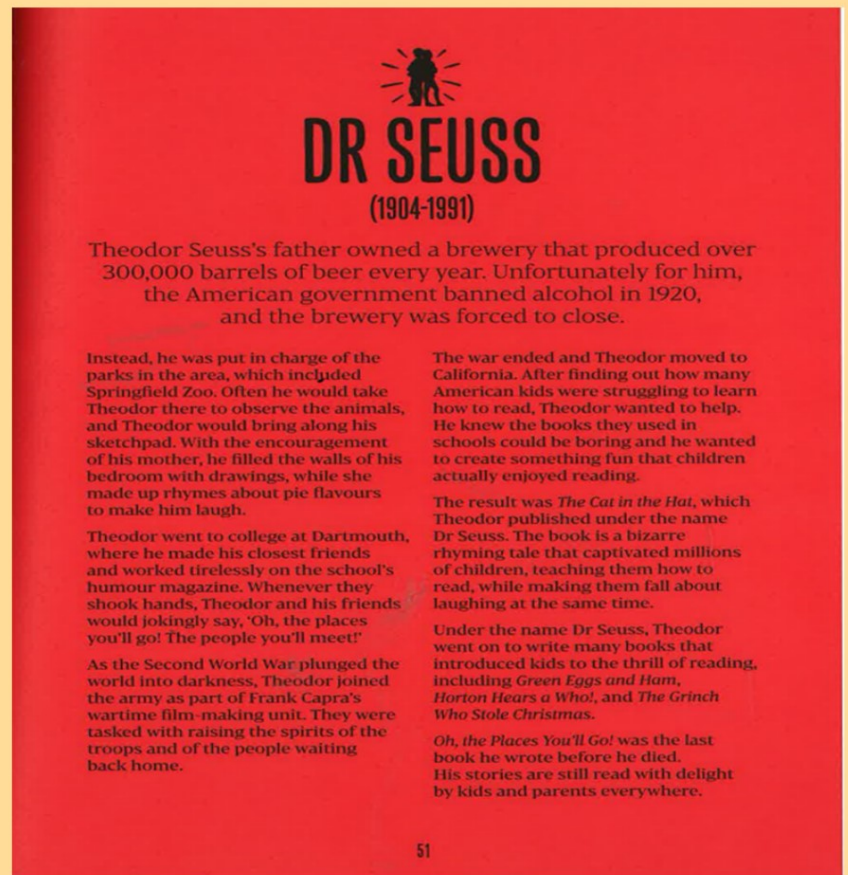
Tuesday

WALT: Explore the features of
biography writing

Yesterday we looked at this biography.

Lets read it again - Think back to our non-chronological report writing when we had to find and include lots of features in our published work.

What features do you notice?



Feedback what you think you have found...
we will look more closely later in the lesson.



DR SEUSS

(1904-1991)

Theodor Seuss's father owned a brewery that produced over 300,000 barrels of beer every year. Unfortunately for him, the American government banned alcohol in 1920, and the brewery was forced to close.

Instead, he was put in charge of the parks in the area, which included Springfield Zoo. Often he would take Theodor there to observe the animals, and Theodor would bring along his sketchpad. With the encouragement of his mother, he filled the walls of his bedroom with drawings, while she made up rhymes about pie flavours to make him laugh.

Theodor went to college at Dartmouth, where he made his closest friends and worked tirelessly on the school's humour magazine. Whenever they shook hands, Theodor and his friends would jokingly say, 'Oh, the places you'll go! The people you'll meet!'

As the Second World War plunged the world into darkness, Theodor joined the army as part of Frank Capra's wartime film-making unit. They were tasked with raising the spirits of the troops and of the people waiting back home.

The war ended and Theodor moved to California. After finding out how many American kids were struggling to learn how to read, Theodor wanted to help. He knew the books they used in schools could be boring and he wanted to create something fun that children actually enjoyed reading.

The result was *The Cat in the Hat*, which Theodor published under the name Dr Seuss. The book is a bizarre rhyming tale that captivated millions of children, teaching them how to read, while making them fall about laughing at the same time.

Under the name Dr Seuss, Theodor went on to write many books that introduced kids to the thrill of reading, including *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*.

Oh, the Places You'll Go! was the last book he wrote before he died. His stories are still read with delight by kids and parents everywhere.

There are many features that can be used / found: Did you find any of these?

Features of a Biography

Purpose:

to give an account of someone's life.



Tense:

- written in the past tense
- Closing statements may use present/future tense

Structure:

Opens with an **attention grabbing** introduction that summarises the main events of the person's life and makes the audience want to read on.

Key events are written in **chronological order**.

Early life, family, home and influences help the audience to understand the person.

Use relevant images and captions for interest.

Concludes with what they are doing now, or how they are/will be remembered.

It does not always mean you will see a date written!

Include:

- information about their personality
- specific facts about achievements, influences and significant people

Include:

- their feelings about different points and events in their life
- quotes from the person themselves, or other key people

Include:

- third person pronouns, such as:
he, she, they,
himself, herself,
it, their, them

Include:

- adverbials, such as:
accordingly
consequently
therefore
hence

Include:

- ellipses, repetition, and time conjunctions to link sentences and paragraphs, such as:
then, after that,
this, firstly,
whenever



Features of a Biography Word Mat pdf.

We will be using six specific ones in our biography writing (see the checklist below).

Features of a Biography Checklist

1. Varied sentence starter (e.g. question to hook the reader)	
2. Interesting Introduction (to summarise the main events in the person's life)	
3. Written in past tense	
4. Used third person pronouns (he, she)	
5. Chronological order - Adverbs of Time	
6. Co-ordinating conjunctions	

Go back to Dr. Seuss' biography. Let's find and write in where the features from the checklist can be found.

DR SEUSS

(1904-1991)

Theodor Seuss's father owned a brewery that produced over 300,000 barrels of beer every year. Unfortunately for him, the American government banned alcohol in 1920, and the brewery was forced to close.

Instead, he was put in charge of the parks in the area, which included Springfield Zoo. Often he would take Theodor there to observe the animals, and Theodor would bring along his sketchpad. With the encouragement of his mother, he filled the walls of his bedroom with drawings, while she made up rhymes about pie flavours to make him laugh.

Theodor went to college at Dartmouth, where he made his closest friends and worked tirelessly on the school's humour magazine. Whenever they shook hands, Theodor and his friends would jokingly say, 'Oh, the places you'll go! The people you'll meet!'

As the Second World War plunged the world into darkness, Theodor joined the army as part of Frank Capra's wartime film-making unit. They were tasked with raising the spirits of the troops and of the people waiting back home.

The war ended and Theodor moved to California. After finding out how many American kids were struggling to learn how to read, Theodor wanted to help. He knew the books they used in schools could be boring and he wanted to create something fun that children actually enjoyed reading.

The result was *The Cat in the Hat*, which Theodor published under the name Dr Seuss. The book is a bizarre rhyming tale that captivated millions of children, teaching them how to read, while making them fall about laughing at the same time.

Under the name Dr Seuss, Theodor went on to write many books that introduced kids to the thrill of reading, including *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*.

Oh, the Places You'll Go! was the last book he wrote before he died. His stories are still read with delight by kids and parents everywhere.

We Do



(Teacher models)

1. Varied sentence starter
(e.g. question to hook the reader)

2. Interesting Introduction
(to summarise the main events in the person's life)

3. Written in past tense

4. Used third person pronouns
(he, she)

5. Chronological order - Adverbs of Time

6. Co-ordinating conjunctions

Features of a Biography Checklist

1. Varied sentence starter (e.g. question to hook the reader)	
2. Interesting Introduction (to summarise the main events in the person's life)	
3. Written in past tense	
4. Used third person pronouns (he, she)	
5. Chronological order - Adverbs of Time	
6. Co-ordinating conjunctions	

Answers / Suggestions

We Do



(Teacher models)

DR SEUSS (1904-1991)

Theodor Seuss's father owned a brewery that produced over 300,000 barrels of beer every year. Unfortunately for him, the American government banned alcohol in 1920, and the brewery was forced to close.

2. Interesting Introduction
(to summarise the main events in the person's life)

6. Co-ordinating conjunctions

Instead, he was put in charge of the parks in the area, which included Springfield Zoo. Often he would take Theodor there to observe the animals, and Theodor would bring along his sketchpad. With the encouragement of his mother, he filled the walls of his bedroom with drawings, while she made up rhymes about the flavours to make him laugh.

Theodor went to college at Dartmouth, where he made his closest friends and worked tirelessly on the school's humour magazine. Whenever they shook hands, Theodor and his friends would jokingly say, 'Oh, the places you'll go! The people you'll meet!'

As the Second World War plunged the world into darkness, Theodor joined the army as part of Frank Capra's wartime film-making unit. They were tasked with raising the spirits of the troops and of the people waiting back home.

The war ended and Theodor moved to California. After finding out how many American kids were struggling to learn how to read, Theodor wanted to help. He knew the books they used in schools could be boring and he wanted to create something fun that children actually enjoyed reading.

The result was *The Cat in the Hat*, which Theodor published under the name Dr Seuss. The book is a bizarre rhyming tale that captivated millions of children, teaching them how to read, while making them fall about laughing at the same time.

Under the name Dr Seuss, Theodor went on to write many books that introduced kids to the thrill of reading, including *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*.

Oh, the Places You'll Go! was the last book he wrote before he died. His stories are still read with delight by kids and parents everywhere.

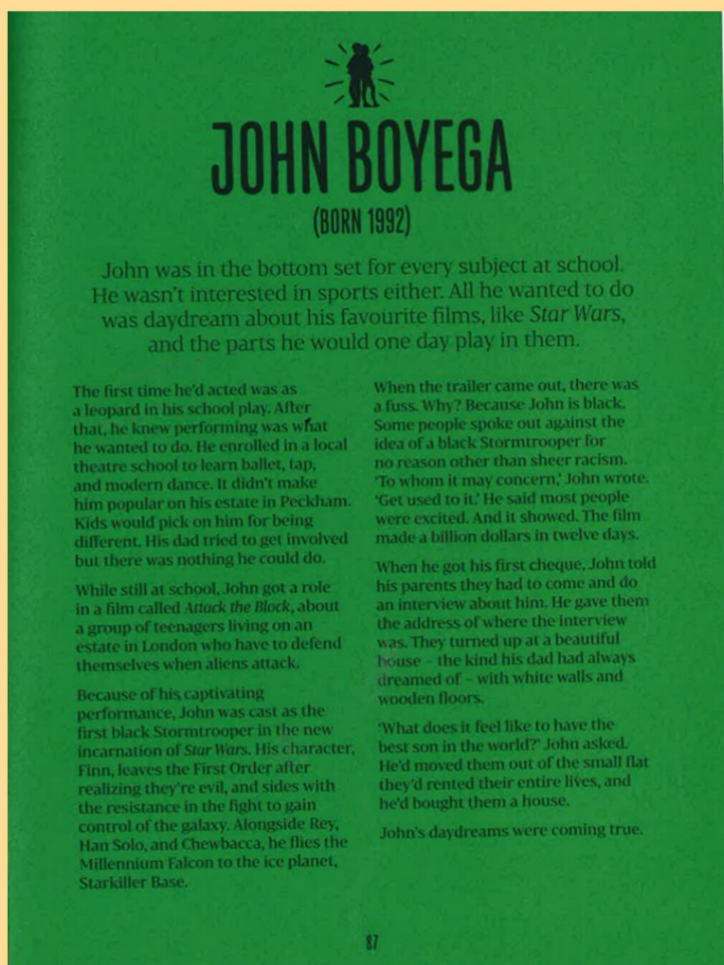
she, she

5. Chronological order - Adverbs of Time

Features of a Biography Checklist

1. Varied sentence starter (e.g. question to hook the reader)	
2. Interesting Introduction (to summarise the main events in the person's life)	
3. Written in past tense	
4. Used third person pronouns (he, she)	
5. Chronological order - Adverbs of Time	
6. Co-ordinating conjunctions	

Explore the features of biography writing



JOHN BOYEGA
(BORN 1992)

John was in the bottom set for every subject at school. He wasn't interested in sports either. All he wanted to do was daydream about his favourite films, like *Star Wars*, and the parts he would one day play in them.

The first time he'd acted was as a leopard in his school play. After that, he knew performing was what he wanted to do. He enrolled in a local theatre school to learn ballet, tap, and modern dance. It didn't make him popular on his estate in Peckham. Kids would pick on him for being different. His dad tried to get involved but there was nothing he could do.

While still at school, John got a role in a film called *Attack the Block*, about a group of teenagers living on an estate in London who have to defend themselves when aliens attack.

Because of his captivating performance, John was cast as the first black Stormtrooper in the new incarnation of *Star Wars*. His character, Finn, leaves the First Order after realizing they're evil, and sides with the resistance in the fight to gain control of the galaxy. Alongside Rey, Han Solo, and Chewbacca, he flies the Millennium Falcon to the ice planet, Starkiller Base.

When the trailer came out, there was a fuss. Why? Because John is black. Some people spoke out against the idea of a black Stormtrooper for no reason other than sheer racism. 'To whom it may concern,' John wrote. 'Get used to it.' He said most people were excited. And it showed. The film made a billion dollars in twelve days.

When he got his first cheque, John told his parents they had to come and do an interview about him. He gave them the address of where the interview was. They turned up at a beautiful house – the kind his dad had always dreamed of – with white walls and wooden floors.

'What does it feel like to have the best son in the world?' John asked. He'd moved them out of the small flat they'd rented their entire lives, and he'd bought them a house.

John's daydreams were coming true.

87

You Do It Alone



(Independent)

Features of a Biography Checklist

1. Varied sentence starter (e.g. question to hook the reader)	
2. Interesting Introduction (to summarise the main events in the person's life)	
3. Written in past tense	
4. Used third person pronouns (he, she)	
5. Chronological order - Adverbs of Time	
6. Co-ordinating conjunctions	

Answers / Suggestions
(You may find other examples too!)

Explore the features of biography writing

You Do It Alone



(Independent)

JOHN BOYEGA (BORN 1992)

John was in the bottom set for every subject at school. He wasn't interested in sports either. All he wanted to do was daydream about his favourite films, like *Star Wars*, and the parts he would one day play in them.

The first time he'd acted was as a leopard in his school play. After that, he knew performing was what he wanted to do. He enrolled in a local theatre school to learn ballet, tap, and modern dance. It didn't make him popular on his estate in Peckham. Kids would pick on him for being different. His dad tried to get involved but there was nothing he could do.

While still at school, John got a role in a film called *Attack the Block*, about a group of teenagers living on an estate in London who have to defend themselves when aliens attack.

Because of his captivating performance, John was cast as the first black Stormtrooper in the new incarnation of *Star Wars*. His character, Finn, leaves the First Order after realizing they're evil and sides with the resistance in the fight to gain control of the galaxy. Alongside Rey, Han Solo, and Chewbacca, he flies the Millennium Falcon to the ice planet, Starkiller Base.

When the trailer came out, there was a fuss. Why? Because John is black. Some people spoke out against the idea of a black Stormtrooper for no reason other than sheer racism. 'To whom it may concern,' John wrote. 'Get used to it.' He said most people were excited. And it showed. The film made a billion dollars in twelve days.

When he got his first cheque, John told his parents they had to come and do an interview about him. He gave them the address of where the interview was. They turned up at a beautiful house – the kind his dad had always dreamed of – with white walls and wooden floors.

'What does it feel like to have the best son in the world?' John asked. He'd moved them out of the small flat they'd rented their entire lives, and he'd bought them a house.

John's daydreams were coming true.

2. Interesting Introduction
(to summarise the main events in the person's life)

3. Written in past tense

5. Chronological order - Adverbs of Time

Features of a Biography Checklist

1. Varied sentence starter (e.g. question to hook the reader)	
2. Interesting Introduction (to summarise the main events in the person's life)	
3. Written in past tense	
4. Used third person pronouns (he, she)	
5. Chronological order - Adverbs of Time	
6. Co-ordinating conjunctions	