

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.

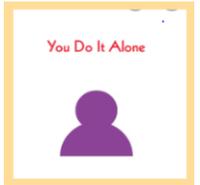
When the trailer came out, there was a fuss. Why? Because John is black. Some people spoke out against the idea of a black Stormtrooper for no reason other than sheer racism. 'To whom it may concern,' John wrote. 'Get used to it.' He said most people were excited. And it showed. The film made a billion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

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(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	