

Answer the following questions:

RECALL

1. What kind of person would you like your biography to be about?
2. What kind of people you shouldn't write your biography about?

# LO: HOW IS BIOGRAPHY BUILT?

Some will even know the role of each paragraph in a biography.

Some will identify different parts of a biography.

Most will know what they take from the biographies they read.

All will summarise each biography.

# GUIDED PRACTICE

Today, you will look at all the biographies you read last week. You will compare all of them and you will learn what is the same and what is different about them. It should help you decide on how your biography is going to be built.

# FRANK ARTHUR BAILEY

Frank Arthur Bailey was born in Guyana in 1925. He was poor as a child and wanted to emigrate to England when he gets older. He came to live in London in 1953, eight years after end of the Second World War.

There was a lot of racism in England at that time. Black people did not have the same chances as white people and it was hard for them to get good jobs. Frank stood up for equal rights for everyone. One day Frank decided that he would like to be a firefighter. However, he found out that black men could not become firefighters because other people thought they were not strong or clever enough. This made Frank really angry and he decided to prove them wrong.

He managed to persuade the fire brigade to give him a trial and this is what he said happened: "I saved another fire-fighter's life when he fainted while we were on the fifth floor of a ladder-drill session. I brought him down to the ground in a fireman's lift. The guy's weight was 16 stone and he was six feet tall!"

So Frank got the job! He was the first black firefighter in London and possibly the first in Britain. Frank was a firefighter for then years. He then became a social worker and went on working to help young black people. He had a long and happy life, and died just after his 90th birthday. Frank was our neighbour and I admired him because he never gave up fighting racism. I am proud I knew him because he really made a difference and made the world a better place.

# DAN ANDREWS – PART 1

## **Dan Andrews - defeating fears**

This is the biography of Dan Andrews, who is an illustrator. I have chosen to write about him because I know him very well, and because I respect the way in which, through his own efforts, he came successfully through a time of great difficulty.

Dan was born in the Royal Sussex County Hospital on July 24th, 1987, to Brian and Heather Andrews. He was their first child, and it was not until he was seven years old that a sister came along. The family lived in Patcham, and Dan is very fond of this area. He is in his 30s now and still lives there. As a child, Dan was lively, energetic, curious, chatty and (it must be said) sometimes very silly! He feared nothing - apart from bumblebees (he still does), and getting into trouble with his mum, who was quite a strict parent.

Dan had a happy childhood, and enjoyed his time at both primary and secondary schools. Then, when he was 15, he and his family experienced a series of blows in quick succession. First, Grandad Andrews, to whom Dan was very close, died suddenly. Soon afterwards, Dan's mother died after being ill for some time. Finally, Nanny Andrews passed away. Not surprisingly, Dan and his family were badly affected by so many deaths in such a short time.

Over the next few years, Dan began to show signs of the unhappiness these events had caused him. He was no longer the carefree, fearless boy he had been, but started to feel anxious and afraid - especially of being in crowded places or having new experiences. He struggled with these feelings for several years, and then, suddenly, decided to do something about them.



# DAN ANDREWS – PART 2

One summer, he set off for a holiday in Japan. He planned to meet a friend there, but first had to spend some time in the capital, Tokyo, on his own. Tokyo is one of the busiest and most crowded cities in the world. Dan had to travel on underground trains in which people were packed together like sardines.

He also had to make himself understood when he did not speak a word of Japanese. Anyone might feel nervous in such a situation, but especially someone like Dan, who was often anxious in new surroundings.

However, I'm pleased to say that Dan did not catch the next plane home! Instead, this time alone in a strange country gave Dan his confidence back. He proved to himself that he could indeed defeat his fears, and he is rightly proud of this achievement.

I have chosen to write about Dan because he is a great friend, and because I admire the way he conquered his fears by making himself do exactly what he was most afraid of. We should remember to try this ourselves when life seems hard.

# RACHEL WILLIAMS – PART 1

Rachel Williams – giving children a gift I am writing about Rachel because she has helped so many children learn to read.

Rachel was an only child who spent a lot of time on her own. She was never lonely though, because she read so many books. Every summer she went to stay with her grandparents in the countryside in Sussex. She would spend most of her days playing outside in the woods and fields, sometimes on her own and sometimes with a friend who lived next door to her grandparents. They would play wonderful games where they imagined themselves to be anyone from Robin Hood to the animals from *The Wind in the Willows*.

When she was 18, Rachel went to university in Birmingham. After that, she wasn't sure what to do with herself. She had heard there was a shortage of teachers, and she thought she might have a go. So she did! She had always wanted children to feed their imaginations through reading, just as she had. As a teacher she read with her pupils and to them every single day.

As well as teaching, Rachel worked in a very special children's bookshop called 'Bags of Books'. Every Saturday morning, 'tring!' went the bell and in marched one of her pupils, Daniel Moore. "What you got then?" he would ask, a smile spread across his face. Daniel is one of Rachel's greatest achievements. All the other teachers had given up on trying to help him learn to read. To Rachel it was simple: she let him choose his own books instead of giving him 'easy' books to read. From this, Daniel blossomed into a confident person who loved reading.

# RACHEL WILLIAMS – PART 2

Rachel has always remembered and built upon this moment as it seemed to her to be the biggest gift she could give to children. She said: "I always thought that helping children with reading was like giving them food - helping them to grow."

She still meets pupils who have grown up and remember learning to read from her teaching, and she is still helping new children to find the pleasures in the world of reading.

I think Rachel is a very important person, and I am happy to write her biography. She has made a difference to the lives of many children over the years, and she is still teaching and writing every day. Also, she is my mum and I have her to thank for my own love of reading!

Thanks, Mum!

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE

Summarise each biography in no more than 3 sentences.



<b>Title</b>	
Frank Arthur Bailey	
Dan Andrews	
Rachel Williams.	

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE

Fill in the table about the three biographies.



<b>Title</b>	<b>What was the diamond moment.</b>	<b>Why the person will be remembered.</b>	<b>What I will take from it and use in my biography.</b>
Frank Arthur Bailey			
Dan Andrews			
Rachel Williams.			

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE

MY ANSWERS - Your answers can be different.



<b>Title</b>	<b>What was the diamond moment.</b>	<b>Why the person will be remembered.</b>	<b>What I will take from it and use in my biography.</b>
Frank Arthur Bailey	Frank saved another firefighter and was given a permanent job.	For becoming the first black firefighter in the UK.	I will write about someone brave.
Dan Andrews	Dan went to Japan and show how brave he was.	He overcame difficulties and fears.	I will be writing short paragraphs.
Rachel Williams.	Rachel made Daniel love to read.	For developing love of reading in many children.	I will use speech in my biography.

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Read the biographies again and fill in the table with the facts for each section.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Introduce the person, place and time.</b>	<b>Write about their childhood.</b>	<b>Greatest achievement</b>	<b>What happened afterwards.</b>	<b>Say why the person was special.</b>
Frank Arthur Bailey					
Dan Andrews					
Rachel Williams					

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



## MY ANSWERS

<b>Title</b>	<b>Introduce the person, place and time.</b>	<b>Write about their childhood.</b>	<b>Greatest achievement</b>	<b>What happened afterwards.</b>	<b>Say why the person was special.</b>
Frank Arthur Bailey	Was born in 1925 in Guyana	Poor as a child	Getting a job as a firefighter	Was fighting racism.	First black person working as a firefighter
Dan Andrews	An illustrator from Patcham	Had a sister when was 7, happy childhood.	He went to Japan on his own and stayed there.	The author admired him for the rest of his life.	HE didn't give up despite hard life.
Rachel Williams	A person who helped children to read.	She read a lot of books as a child. Spent time in countryside.	Made Daniel (her son) a great reader.	She helped many more children to read.	She didn't give up on Daniel, although others did.