

Answer the following questions:

RECALL

1. Whose biography did you read on Tuesday?
2. What was this man's greatest achievement?
3. Who would find this biography useful and why?

LO: HOW TO WRITE A GOOD BIOGRAPHY

Some will even write what other things they would include in the biography.

Some will answer questions about author's intentions and techniques.

Most will answer questions about the biography.

All will summarise a biography.

GUIDED PRACTICE

Today you will read another example of a biography and answer some questions about it.

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Read the biography and summarise it.

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.



INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



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.

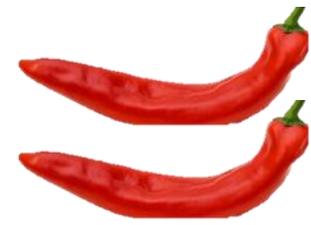
He also had to make himself understood when he did not speak a word of Japanese. Anyone might feel nervous in such a situation, but especially someone like Dan, who was often anxious in new surroundings.

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.

Now summarize this biography.

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Read the biography and answer the questions about the biography.

Who is Dan Andrews?

What were the most important moments in Dan's life?

What was Dan's biggest achievement?

What have you learnt from this biography?

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Read the biography and answer the questions about how this biography was written.

Why did the writer write this text? Who might it have been written for?

Who might you write your biography about? Who do you think will read it?

What do you like about the way the writer has written this biography?

What might you borrow from this text?

Write down all the fronted adverbials from the biography. Why do you think the author used so many fronted adverbials?

DIVE DEEPER

What other things would you add to this biography? What changes would you make?