

Grade 5 English Language Arts

Week of January 25 – January 29

Lesson 3: Introducing Biographies

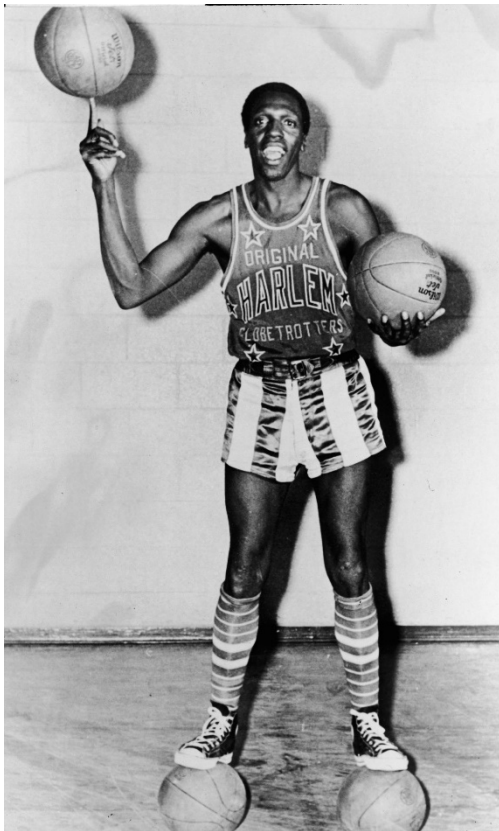
You've read about TedXKids@BC, Alaina Podmorow, and Terry Fox. There are some amazing young people in our province. A biography is true story about a real person in which important information and major events from the person's life are described.

In this lesson, we are going to look at some specific writing skills related to biographies: purpose, organization, starting paragraphs with main idea sentences, and how to revise to make a biography stronger.

(Activities in this lesson are adapted from Klobuchar, Lisa, Diane Zahler, and John Aardema. *Nonfiction Writing*. Monterey, CA: Evan-Moor, 2011. Print.)

Sweet Success

Read this example of a biography to determine the writer's purpose.



As a small boy, Meadowlark Lemon was not much of a basketball player. No one in his hometown expected him to play professionally. Little did they know that Lemon would become one of the most famous and popular members of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Lemon was born in the 1930s in Wilmington, North Carolina, USA. One of his favourite pastimes was watching movies at the local theater. When he was 11 years old, he saw a news story featuring the Harlem Globetrotters, a basketball team of entertaining athletes with expert basketball skills. Lemon was instantly captivated by the players dribbling, shooting, passing, and clowning around. In that moment, he made up his mind that he would someday join the team.

Lemon was determined to reach his goal, even though he could not afford to buy a basketball. He made a hoop from an onion sack and a coathanger, and he used

an empty can for a ball. He practised endlessly. By the time he reached high school, Lemon had become a fine athlete. He wanted to try out for the Globetrotters, but he was drafted into the army and had to serve two years.

Lemon finally joined the Globetrotters in 1955. For 24 years, he delighted fans with his pranks on the court. He was known as the "Clown Prince of Basketball". But he was also known for his superb half-court hook shot.

Meadowlark Lemon played in more than 16 000 basketball games in his career. In 2003, he was honoured to become part of the Basketball Hall of Fame. Today, Lemon works with the sports camps that he founded in 1989. He teaches kids to work hard and believe in themselves because he knows that those are the qualities it takes to be successful.

In *Sweet Success* in your Learning Guide, record what you think the author's purpose was for writing the biography of Meadowlark Lemon.

3.9 Introducing Biographies



Sweet Success

1. What was the writer's purpose? _____

2. Does the writer clearly state who the biography is about and why this person is important? (Yes or No) _____

3. A biography gives details in chronological order; this is the order in which they happened. It may begin by telling when and where the person was born and may end by telling when the person died or what he or she is doing now. Are the facts about Meadowlark Lemon in chronological order? (Yes or No) _____

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