

Grade 5 English Language Arts
Week of February 8 – February 12

Lesson 2: Questions

Learning Target

By the end of the lesson, you should be able to say YES to the following questions.

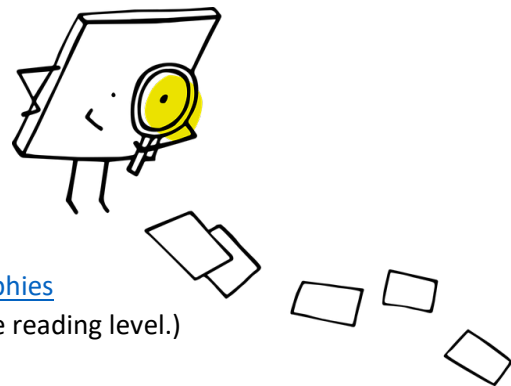
- Can I use strategies for determining importance and finding the main ideas?
- Can I transform ideas and information to create an original paragraph?
- Can I apply thinking skills to gain meaning from text?
- Can I respond to text in a variety of ways, including providing support for my response?



Gathering Resources

If you are able to, visit the library or sign out ebooks to gather information about your subject. You should browse:

- The Internet - articles, websites, and even youtube - (with parent/caregiver permission, of course)
- Newspaper articles
- Magazine articles and interviews
- Biographies (specific to your person or in books like *The Kids Book of Great Canadians*)
- History books (Books in the [Scholastic Canada Biographies series](#) may be available at your library. They are a nice reading level.)



If you are using the internet for your research, be sure you have permission from the adult you live with!

Good Questions!

Now that you've selected a subject, the real fun begins! Biographical research is like detective work. Your assignment: Uncover fun facts about your subject! But first.....

Creating a focus question - a "**big question**" that will drive your introduction, conclusion, and information, and an outline will help you to focus your research and choose what facts to pay attention to, record, and think about. What is a big question?

When you read, the introduction and conclusion can help you determine what the writer's purpose was - and what "big ideas" the writer was hoping you would gain. A purpose or focus question helps to give unity to the biography.

TERRY FOX

What was the focus question of the Terry Fox biography? When you read about Terry Fox, the introductory paragraph said:

This Canadian hero has had more impact than he could have possibly imagined!

The closing paragraph said:

The research they've done is already saving lives, and Terry's cause has now been taken over by others – millions of ordinary Canadians.

What was the "big question" was being answered in his biography?

ALAINA PODMOROW

What was the focus question of the Alaina Podmorow biography? When you read about Alaina, the introductory paragraph said:

Back in 2006, when student Alaina Podmorow was only nine, she was inspired into action after attending a speech by a Canadian journalist and human rights activist named Sally Armstrong

The closing paragraph said:

Alaina lives her life following her motto that "education = peace" and has become a recognized force for change... She is someone who understands that the world beyond her own community needs help. According to www.littlewomenforlittlewomen.com, Alaina is more motivated than ever and vows to never stop fighting for Little Women and for Global equality in human rights. She continues to speak to audiences, sharing information about the importance of education as a key tool in peace building. The world is a better place thanks to inspired and inspiring humans like Alaina Podmorow.

What was "big question" was being answered in her biography?

The Big "Driving" Question

The big questions provide focus and make biographical reading interesting. If you have a "big question", your readers will feel satisfied after reading the biography you will write. The reader will have an "understanding" of something important as a result of reading your biography.

- Some questions you might want to think about include:
 - What kind of effect did he or she have on the world? other people?
 - Do you feel this person made the world a better place to live in because of what he/she did? How? Why or why not?
 - How would the history of the world been affected or changed if this significant contributor had never lived?
 - What qualities did this person have that made him or her successful?

If you have a big question "in mind", it may change as you learn more about your person. That is OK.

The Small Questions

That doesn't mean the small questions are not important. They form the body of your biography. The big question helps you to "think about" the facts, to synthesize or put together the facts to create a meaningful essay. The questions below show three categories you can organize your notes into - at least to get started. Depending on the person, your organization might end up being a bit different.

EARLY LIFE

- What is your person's first and last name-nicknames/pseudonyms?
- What is their date of birth and death?
- What was your person like when they were young?
- What do you know about their family members and important early experiences which contributed to their personality or future? Who influenced this person's life and choices? W
- What schools did your person attend in their life? Where are the schools located? Any interesting information on their school behavior or grades? Was there a particularly influential teacher?
- What obstacles did this person have to overcome? How did s/he overcome them?

LATER LIFE

- When they were an adult, what jobs did they hold? Why did this person enter the field they did? Did they receive awards or recognition in their lifetime?
- If your person has died: When and where did they die? How did they die?

CONTRIBUTIONS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS / FUTURE

- How did their death affect society or other individuals?

- If your person is still alive: What new projects are they working on?
- What are they doing today?
- What opinions do others have about this person?
- What do you know about their hopes for the future?

QUOTABLE QUOTES

- Quotable quotes can really add to your content and message. If you find a quotable quote by your person or about your person, record it. Just keep track of "who said it".

Start to brainstorm some questions you would want to ask about your person.

Determine which are “big” questions and which are “small” questions.