

Checklist for “Fairy Tale Biography” Essay

Check the box if you have completed these in your essay for your biography

- Do you have an interesting title?
- Does your picture represent the character doing something (important to the story)?
- Do you have a paragraph summary on the back page?
- Do you have a quotation (exact words from a sentence or two of your biography) that makes the reader want to read the story?
- Is it in color?

First Paragraph

- Is your hook a scene that reflects an important characteristic or the lesson of the story?
 - Did you show, not tell in your scene with details from your senses? (ex. don't say she was happy, show her smiling, laughing)
 - Does your scene have action with action verbs?
 - Is the last sentence, your thesis sentence with the lesson we learn from the character's life?
 - Write the lesson we learn from his/her life story -
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Second Paragraph

- Does this paragraph give the date and place of birth?
- Do you introduce the character's family and/or friends
- Do you have a specific example(s) of how the character (or another character in the story) exemplifies or contrasts with the lesson of the biography?
- Did you use a scene or anecdote to show it, not tell it?
- Did you use sensory details and action verbs in this paragraph?
- Does this paragraph only focus on their childhood?

Third Paragraph

- Do you have a specific example(s) of how the character (or another character in the story) exemplifies or contrasts with the lesson of the biography?
- Did you use a scene or anecdote to show it, not tell it? Can I visualize it?
- Did you use sensory details and action verbs in this paragraph?
- Did you only include a small, abbreviated version of their fairytale?
- Does this paragraph only focus on their young adult years?

Fourth Paragraph

- Do you have a specific example(s) of how the character (or another character in the story) exemplifies or contrasts with the lesson of the biography?
- Did you use a scene or anecdote to show it, not tell it? Can I visualize it?
- Did you use sensory details and action verbs in this paragraph?

- Does this paragraph only focus on their later years?
- Did you include the date of their death? (If not, is it in the last paragraph?)

Concluding Paragraph

- Did you yo-yo back to your scene in your intro paragraph? Did you somehow tie your ending into the beginning of your essay?
- Did you paraphrase the lesson we learn from his/her life?

Conventions

- Did you use correct spelling, punctuation, and word choice?
- Do your sentences flow smoothly when reading them aloud? Check for any sentences or phrases that sound awkward?
- Did you write concisely? Your paper shouldn't sound like a conversation or have unneeded words (ex. Well, I'm going to tell you..., Here's why..., I think...)
- Were you specific? Watch for generalizations (ex. He was brave because he did lots of things..., these characters have a lot of similarities and differences...)?
- Was your writing formal and professional? No slang, use "children" instead of "kids", no texting abbreviations.