

Read the Unit 3 introduction (pp. 257-259).

1. Biographies, like short stories, contain three basic features:
_____, _____, and _____.
2. From Paragraphs 1-3, describe two ways biographies differ from short stories.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. How can a record of failure be helpful to us? _____

4. What is the result of a biographer’s sympathy toward the person he is writing about?

5. How do you know that *Henry Ford: Maker of the Model T*, by Miriam Gilbert is not an autobiography?

6. What qualities does a respected autobiographer possess? _____

Read “Menno Simons” (pp. 260-265).

7. Menno did not receive truth in his younger days.
 - a. What was lacking from Menno’s education for the priesthood? _____
 - b. Why did he fear to read it even after he became a priest? _____

8. ____ Menno was led to new convictions through three experiences. What first issue did he struggle with that led him finally to read the Bible?
 - a. Only the church can interpret the Bible infallibly.
 - b. Transubstantiation (Communion bread and wine becomes the body and blood of Christ).
 - c. Infants must be baptized.
 - d. Violation of church teachings leads to eternal death.
9. ____ ____ What truths did Martin Luther teach Menno Simons at this time?
 - a. God’s Word is the ultimate authority in all matters of faith.
 - b. The Lord’s Supper consists of bread and wine.
 - c. Only Catholic priests can understand God’s Word.
 - d. Violation of human commands cannot lead to eternal death.

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10. ___ What second issue brought Menno to new soul-struggle?
- a. infallibility of the church
 - b. transubstantiation
 - c. the Lord's Supper
 - d. infant baptism
11. ___ Menno did not accept the logical explanations of reformers Butzer and Bullinger because
- a. the church knew more than the reformers.
 - b. he didn't know what the Bible said.
 - c. Martin Luther agreed with their explanations.
 - d. he believed God's Word exceeded the logic of men.
12. ___ How did the incident with the Munsterites help to bring Menno to conviction, even though he knew they were in error?
- a. The Catholic Church convinced him that his convictions were misguided.
 - b. The Munsterites taught a few Biblical truths.
 - c. He realized he should be willing to give up the priesthood for the truth.
13. ___ Why did Menno not leave the church and priesthood immediately after he knew it was wrong?
- a. concern for his wife
 - b. fear of church authorities
 - c. doubt that he could find the truth
 - d. the influence of Martin Luther
14. ___ Toward the end of his life, what gave Menno special concern for the church?
- a. dissension in the church over the strictness of ban observance
 - b. dissension in the church over how much Mennonite literature to print
 - c. transubstantiation—that the bread and wine actually become Christ's body and blood

WRITING A *BIOGRAPHY* – *Subject and Focus*

In this unit you will write a biography of someone you know.

Choose someone who is still alive, and whom you admire and respect. If you choose an older person, you will probably have a more colorful story. It could be grandparent, teacher, or church leader, or simply someone that interests and inspires you by their Christian character.

Decide on a focus for your biography. What is your person's most outstanding character trait? Hard-working? Hospitable? Cheerful despite tremendous suffering? Generous? Patient? Look at the titles for the biographies in the rest of this Unit, and jot down a possible title for yours. Find a way to put your focus into your title. Note the meanings of these terms:

biography: *the story of someone's life*

biographer: *the person who writes a biography*

biographee: *the person about whom the biography is written*

Choose your biographee and your focus.

15. Subject – biographee: _____

16. Possible title: _____

Find each word in the story. Look at how it is used and write the letter of the best definition.

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. ___ profanity | a. abundance | b. cursing | c. folly |
| 2. ___ hankered | a. squatted | b. desired | c. corroded |
| 3. ___ rebound | a. bounce back | b. thrive | c. become famous |

Read the introduction and Part 1: “Preconversion Experiences” (pp. 268-273).

Complete these exercises.

4. Who wrote this autobiography? _____
5. What is another book written by this author? _____
6. ___ Bunyan’s spiritual autobiography begins with a succession of convictions. He was first convicted on the matter of
 - a. stealing.
 - b. swearing.
 - c. Sabbath Day observance.
 - d. honesty.
7. ___ The first conviction lasted about
 - a. one hour.
 - b. one day.
 - c. one week.
 - d. one month.
8. ___ Next a woman who was loose and ungodly herself convicted him of
 - a. stealing.
 - b. swearing.
 - c. Sabbath Day observance.
 - d. ringing the bells.
9. ___ The “poor man who called himself a Christian” convinced Bunyan
 - a. to read the Bible and keep the Ten Commandments.
 - b. that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.
 - c. that a man cannot reform his life on his own.
 - d. that the Bible was not worth reading.
10. ___ Although the neighbors were impressed, what was still lacking in Bunyan’s life?
 - a. morality
 - b. sobriety
 - c. God
 - d. Jesus Christ
11. ___ As his conscience grew more tender, Bunyan now became convicted about
 - a. stealing.
 - b. swearing.
 - c. Sabbath Day observance.
 - d. ringing the bells.
12. ___ The poor women talking in Bedford led Bunyan to another conviction:
 - a. they were hypocrites like himself.
 - b. they were born again and he was not.
 - c. they were trying to do good works.
 - d. they did not have many struggles.

Write *biography*, *biographer*, and *biographee*.

13. a. _____ the story of someone’s life
- b. _____ the person about whom the biography is written
- c. _____ the person who writes a biography

Worksheet 55

Interpret these symbols from Bunyan's vision. (One of them is not explained by Bunyan.)

14. a. mountain _____
- b. the sun _____
- c. the darkness and frost _____
- d. the wall _____
- e. the door _____
- f. the narrowness of the door _____

WRITING A BIOGRAPHY – Research

Now that you have chosen a subject and a focus point for the biography, you need to begin your search for information. Begin by calling or meeting the person and asking their permission to interview them. Tell them you will send them a list of questions to get them thinking, then follow up with an interview by phone or in person. Get their address, e-mail address, or fax number if you cannot hand the questions to them.

Write the date and time that you talked to your subject and circle the way you talked to them.

15. Date and time: _____ Method: telephone in person

Now, write a purpose statement. Keep it general enough to be supported by a variety of instances in your subject's life. If it is too specific you will have a harder time.

Example: Too specific: To show how Grandpa Martin ran a successful grocery store.
Better: To show how Grandpa Martin persevered and refused to quit.

Write the purpose of your biography.

16. _____

How Your Biography Will Be Scored

- 20 ____ Interviews; primary and secondary
- 10 ____ Done on time; appropriate secondary sources (no close relatives)
- 10 ____ Good notes taken, one card for each question
- 10 ____ Purpose statement—carefully written to express the goal of the biography
- 30 ____ Main body
 - 10 ____ Introduction—creative and pointing toward the purpose statement
 - 10 ____ Main body—carefully chosen points presented with creativity and warmth; essential parts of life included
 - 10 ____ Ending—more creative than just stopping; tying back to the purpose statement and the opening paragraph(s)
- 10 ____ Grammar, spelling, active-voice verbs, proper sentence structure
- 10 ____ Title page—artistic and balanced, includes all pertinent information
- 10 ____ Credit page, thanking each source for their time
- 10 ____ Done on time; second copy sent to your subject, including any pictures to return
- 100 ____ **Total**

Find each word in the story. Look at how it is used and write the letter of the best definition.

1. ___ consumption a. extravagance b. final decision c. older name for tuberculosis
2. ___ inertia a. resistance to motion b. energy c. extreme fright or fear
3. ___ malicious a. spiteful b. sour-tasting c. inexperienced

Read Part 2; “Postconversion Experiences” (pp. 275, 276).

Do these exercises.

4. What was Bunyan tempted to do at the observance of the Lord’s Supper? _____

5. What did he conclude later was the reason for the temptation? _____

6. Bunyan says that while he had the consumption, he was also “sick in my inward man.” What was Satan troubling him with this time? _____

7. Bunyan often found victory from his depression by remembering _____. Write the verse that brought a sudden change in his thinking this time. _____

8. Bunyan became ill again. What was his temptation this time? _____

9. What verse brought him victory? Write it. _____

10. During his time of “soul inertia,” what word is used that shows us that he had even begun to doubt that God exists? _____

Read Part 3: “Preaching Experiences” (pp. 277-279).

Do these exercises.

11. In reality, Bunyan was a very effective preacher. However, his inner struggles kept him humble. It made no difference who _____ him if he was fruitless; he did not care who _____ him if he was fruitful.
12. Bunyan did not want his people just to drink in opinions; he wanted them to know _____ and the value of salvation, and he wanted to see _____ of sin and hearts on _____ to be saved by Christ.

Worksheet 56

13. a. Among Bunyan's temptations and trials were these: He feared he would not be of _____ to anyone and that he would not be able to speak _____ to people.
- b. He was seized with a strange _____; he had thoughts of _____, and his mind would go _____ while speaking
14. Satan also tempted him to be proud. What kept Bunyan from yielding to that temptation?

15. Since Satan could not trap Bunyan with temptations to failure or pride, he tried a new tactic.
- a. What outside opposition did he now receive? _____

- b. What was Bunyan's response? _____

WRITING A BIOGRAPHY

Now that you have contacted your main source for your biography, prepare a list of questions for him or her to use in preparing for your interview. As you make your list, remember your one main purpose in writing the biography—to tell your readers why you admire and respect this person. Is it because he was a faithful friend to everyone? Is it because she was a good steward and made wise choices? Whatever it is, look especially for information that will support that purpose. Of course, you will need to include other basic information as well. Again, you will not want to smooth over failures and faults; everyone has those, and often they shape our lives as much as anything.

Complete your questions, then fax or mail them to your person. Make sure he or she understands not to write answers—just think about them and be prepared to answer them verbally in the interview. Soon after he or she receives the questions, call or e-mail to set up a time for your interview. Plan for it to take at least half an hour, and arrange a time convenient for both of you.

Show your questions to your teacher.

16. Make any revisions your teacher suggests.

Think of two people to use as secondary sources. Because your person is still alive, there is likely not a lot of information written about him. Therefore, you will talk to a few people who know him, but are not related to him. These interviews will be much simpler; basically, you will just ask, "How did you learn to know _____?" "How would you summarize his/her life?" Aim to get feedback from them related to your purpose statement.

Example: "I understand you worked with my Grandpa Martin. I'm writing a biography about him to show his perseverance. Can you give me any examples of how he persevered?"

If you know your subject well, you will probably be able to think of secondary sources easily. If you don't, you might have to ask him or her for ideas. Try to find one person from the first half of your subject's life and one from their more recent life.

Write two possible secondary sources.

17. _____