

BIOGRAPHIES

of Famous Women

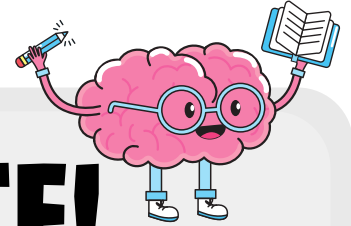
A biography is a written account of someone's life, usually written by another person. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of their life story from birth until death including their achievements, challenges and impact on the world around them. They can be written about anyone, from historical figures and celebrities to ordinary people who have made a significant contribution to their field. This collection of short biographies are written about famous women.



Key conventions include:

- **Third person point of view:** written about the subject by someone else using the pronouns 'he', 'she', 'they' etc.
- **Factual information:** favours facts and true anecdotes that are accurate and well-researched from reliable sources
- **Chronological order:** mostly follows events or life stages in the order in which they occurred
- **Narrative style:** might use techniques such as descriptive language, figurative language or emotive language to bring the story to life
- **Broader context:** providing background information on the historical, cultural, or social influences at the time to account for events or decisions the person made.
- **Quotes or anecdotes:** inclusions from people who knew the subject of the biography
- **Photographs:** engaging images to help the reader visualise the subject's life

LEARN TO ANNOTATE!



Annotating is a fancy word that means taking what you are thinking about while you are reading and putting it down on the page. You don't want this to take too long and pull you out of the flow, so jot down these symbols or a quick note and then keep reading!

Annotation Symbols



Emojis - Note how do you feel while reading with an emoji. Also note, how does the character feel?



Hearts and Stars - mark your favorite or important parts with a heart or star, so you can easily find these sections again.



Exclamation points - if you find a part that shocks or surprises you, mark it with a !! Or a short phrase like WOW or HOLY COW!



Questions - when you have a question, write down a ?? or write out your full question.



Connections - note when you connect to the text or when it connects with another story or the real world





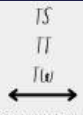
Underlining and circling important text/words are still more ways you can annotate.

Mark up the text so that when you come back to it, you can jog your memory to remember what you've already read without having to reread the entire text.

If you aren't thinking about anything while you are reading, that's your clue to STOP, go back and read again. Think of it like seeing the words play out like a movie in your brain. If you aren't seeing anything in your head, that's your sign to find a place free of distractions and try reading again.



MAE Jemison

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**ANNOTATE
TEXT
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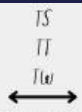


BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Mae Jemison is a scientist, doctor, and astronaut who made history as the first Black woman to travel to space. She was born on October 17, 1956, in Decatur, Alabama, and grew up loving science and space. Before becoming an astronaut, she worked as a doctor and even helped people in Africa as a medical officer. In 1992, she flew aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour, orbiting Earth for nearly eight days. Mae is also an engineer, a teacher, and a big supporter of STEM education, encouraging young people—especially girls and students of color—to follow their dreams in science and technology. Plus, she's a big Star Trek fan and even appeared in an episode of the show!



PRINCESS Diana

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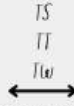
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BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Princess Diana was a beloved royal known for her kindness, charity work, and style. She was born on July 1, 1961, in England and married Prince Charles, making her the Princess of Wales. People around the world admired her for helping others, especially children, people with AIDS, and those affected by landmines. Even though she was part of the royal family, she was known for being down-to-earth and caring. She was also a devoted mother to her two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, wanting them to have a normal childhood despite their royal status. Diana was one of the most photographed people in the world, and her fashion choices often made headlines. Sadly, she died in a car crash in 1997, but her legacy of kindness and compassion still inspires people today.



MALALA Yousafzai

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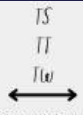
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BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Malala Yousafzai is a brave activist who fights for girls' education around the world. She was born on July 12, 1997, in Pakistan, where she loved going to school. When the Taliban took control of her town and tried to stop girls from learning, Malala spoke out, even writing about it for the BBC. In 2012, she was shot by the Taliban for standing up for education but survived and kept fighting for what she believes in. She later moved to England and continued her activism, founding the Malala Fund to help girls go to school. In 2014, she became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize at just 17 years old. Malala also graduated from Oxford University, proving that education can change lives. Today, she continues to inspire people everywhere to stand up for their rights and make the world a better place.



SUSAN Anthony

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BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Susan B. Anthony was a leader in the fight for women's rights in the United States. She was born on February 15, 1820, in Massachusetts and grew up believing that men and women should be treated equally. She fought hard for women to have the right to vote, giving speeches and helping to organize the women's suffrage movement. In 1872, she was even arrested for voting illegally in an election to prove her point. She also worked to end slavery and believed in equal rights for all people. Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she helped publish a newspaper called The Revolution to spread ideas about women's rights. Although she died in 1906, 14 years before women won the right to vote, her work helped make it possible. Today, she is honored on the U.S. dollar coin and remembered as a pioneer for equality.

EXTEND your Learning



Ask students to research and write mini-bios of other famous women. (You can use the International Women's History Month Trivia to jumpstart your brainstorming process, or use the list below that I've curated for you.)

With the final products, students can create trivia questions for their classmates or annotate one another's pieces with their own questions, thoughts, emotions and connections.

25 Influential Women (of the last 100 years)

Politics & Leadership

1. Eleanor Roosevelt – Former First Lady, human rights activist, and key figure in the United Nations.
2. Margaret Thatcher – First female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
3. Angela Merkel – First female Chancellor of Germany, leading Europe's largest economy.
4. Hillary Clinton – Former U.S. Secretary of State and first woman to win a major party's presidential nomination in the U.S.
5. Kamala Harris – First female, first Black, and first South Asian Vice President of the United States.

Activism & Human Rights

1. Rosa Parks – Civil rights activist who refused to give up her bus seat, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
2. Malala Yousafzai – Education activist and youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner.
3. Gloria Steinem – Feminist leader and journalist who shaped the modern women's rights movement.
4. Mother Teresa – Catholic nun and humanitarian known for helping the poor in India.
5. Greta Thunberg – Environmental activist who inspired a global movement to fight climate change.

Science & Technology

1. Marie Curie – Pioneering physicist and chemist who won two Nobel Prizes (though she died just over 100 years ago, her influence lasted well beyond).
2. Rosalind Franklin – Scientist whose work led to the discovery of DNA's structure.
3. Jane Goodall – Primatologist and conservationist known for her work with chimpanzees.
4. Katherine Johnson – NASA mathematician whose calculations helped send astronauts to space.
5. Mae Jemison – First Black woman in space and advocate for STEM education.

Arts & Literature

1. Maya Angelou – Poet, author, and civil rights activist.
2. Toni Morrison – Nobel Prize-winning author known for *Beloved* and other powerful works.
3. Frida Kahlo – Iconic Mexican artist known for her surreal and deeply personal paintings.
4. J.K. Rowling – Author of *Harry Potter*, one of the most successful book series of all time.
5. Oprah Winfrey – Media mogul and talk show host who has influenced millions.

Sports & Entertainment

1. Serena Williams – One of the greatest tennis players of all time.
2. Simone Biles – Olympic gymnast and advocate for mental health.
3. Billie Jean King – Tennis champion and advocate for gender equality in sports.
4. Beyoncé – Award-winning musician, entrepreneur, and advocate for social justice.
5. Diana, Princess of Wales – Known for her humanitarian work and lasting global influence.