Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*9th Lit/Comp Unit 2 Introduction – J. Chittaro*

A **biography** is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* BIO- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; GRAPH - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Biographies are written about a person's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but are written by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A biography about Labron James would NOT be written BY Labron - just about Labron.
* Sometimes, biographies are written about famous people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their permission or endorsement.

**Biography Example:** The Greatest: Muhammad Ali by Walter Dean Myers



* Clues it's a Biography
* Written in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ point-of-view
* "he", "she", \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

An **autobiography** is a history or story of a person's life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* AUTO - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; BIO - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; GRAPH – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* An autobiography is written BY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Sometimes, when a person wants to write their autobiography, but may not have the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to actually write the book, another person called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ actually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This happens with many executives, celebrities, and political leaders.

**Example of Autobiography:** 100% Official Justin Bieber: Just Getting Started by Justin Bieber



* Clues it's an Autobiography
* Written in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ point-of-view
* "I", "me", "my", "we", "our"
* Reads as if the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Justin) were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Review: Biography vs. Autobiography**

Biography:

* Tells a story about a person's life
* Usually written from birth to death/present
* Written by someone other than subject of the book
* Third person point-of-view
* Clues: "he", "she", subject's name ("Cassius Clay")

Autobiography:

* Author tells a story about their own life
* Usually written from birth to present
* Sometimes written by a ghost writer
* First person point-of-view
* Clues: "I", "me", "we", "my"
* Reads as if the author were talking to you

A **memoir** [mem-wahr] is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ written by a person having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of them and based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* A memoir is like an autobiography except instead of covering a person's entire life; the memoir covers an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a specific time in the author's life.
* Sometimes the memoir is made into a movie.

**Example of a Memoir:** 127 Hours: Between a Rock and a Hard Place by Aron Ralston



* Clues it’s a Memoir
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ point-of-view
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the morning Aron left - he tells details that other would not have known

**Let’s Practice -** Look at the following book excerpts. Using the information you have just learned, decide whether the selection is a biography, an autobiography, or a memoir. Highlight the clues.

**Example #1:**

* This is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Example #2:**



* This is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Example #3:**

* This is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.