

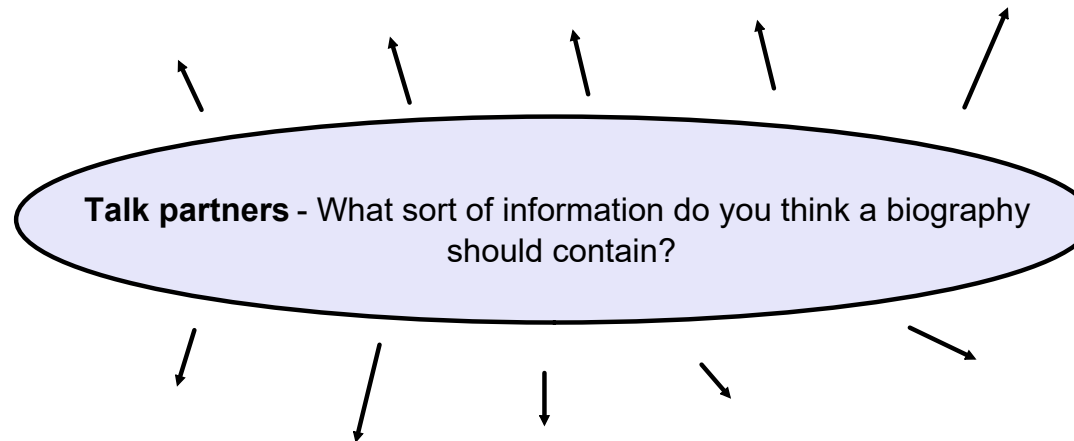
L.O. I can identify the key features of a biography.

Talk partners -

What do you know about biographies?

-List your ideas on a whiteboard.

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- Who is the biography about?
- Who has written it?
- When was it written?
- What are the key facts?
- What are ...'s major achievements?
- Which key events have influenced ...?
- What made ... be successful?
- What is ... most/least proud of?
- How does the person's life compare to ...'s life?
- How does ...'s life represent the life of a certain generation?
- What would ... have done differently?

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Tom Daley

Wow! Who is that figure twirling through the air high above the swimming pool, and what is he all about? Read on and find out...

Introduction

British diver Tom Daley has represented his country in many competitions worldwide, including three Olympic Games. He specialises in platform dives - both as a solo athlete and in synchronised events.

Family and Early Life

Thomas Robert Daley was born in Plymouth on 21st May 1994. His father, Rob, trained as an electrician while his mother (Debbie) was a housewife. Tom is their eldest child: his two brothers, William and Ben, are three and five years younger than him. Tom attended local schools and, despite his education being interrupted by competitions, he still achieved great exam results at his secondary school.

Sporting Beginnings

Having learned to swim at the age of four, Tom then began diving lessons at his local pool aged seven. Although, he was also keen on other sports including Judo. He was soon spotted by diving coach Andy Banks, who became his trainer when Tom was eight years old. From that age onwards, Tom was part of an increasingly intensive training regime – including regular lessons and training camps in other cities. He has admitted that he found being away from home very difficult as a young child, and when Tom was placed in a competitive squad and began travelling to diving events, his father decided he would give up his job and accompany Tom on the road; had he not been there, Tom might not have become so successful.

First Signs of a Star

Only one month after his tenth birthday, Tom became the youngest-ever winner of the under-18 platform competition in the National Junior Championships. Unfortunately, despite the fact he had met the tough qualification standard for the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Tom couldn't be selected for the England team at that time since he wasn't old enough. However, later in 2005 at the British Championships, he did become the under-18 champion in 10m platform and 3m springboard.

Continued Success

Progress, achievements and awards came thick and fast after that for Tom: he was junior 10m champion at the British Championships in 2005, 2006 and 2007; BBC 'Young Sports Personality of the Year' award winner three times and by the age of 14, he was Britain's youngest competitor at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. There, he reached the final with his dive partner Blake Aldridge, as well as competing in the individual 10m event. At 16, he was a double-gold winner at the Commonwealth Games.

Family Tragedy

Sadly, Tom's biggest supporter – his father – was diagnosed with a brain tumour when Tom was only 12. He died in 2011. Tom was devastated by the loss and has credited his dad with making him the person he is today.

Poster Boy

In the lead-up to the London 2012 Olympic Games, Tom was one of the British athletes promoting the Games around the country. He won a bronze medal in the individual 10m dive (which he dedicated to his late father) but unfortunately finished 4th in the synchronised event.

Let's read this biography. With your partner, describe what works well (WWW) and what could be up levelled (EBI).

Think about the key features and the Year 6 grammar expectations.

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Let's evaluate:
What did you notice?

Challenge:

Let's build a vocabulary bank. What key words are important to the text type of biographies?