

## ⚡ PREPARE

**CONCEPT** A biography is a true story of a person's life written by another person. An autobiography is a true story that a person writes about his or her own life. Person, life, and legacy are three elements of a biography and an autobiography. A timeline is one strategy readers can use to remember major events and dates in the subject's life.

**VOCABULARY** autobiography, biography, legacy, life, person, timeline

**MATERIALS** Lesson reproducibles

## ⚡ INSTRUCT

### **ANCHOR CHART** [Display Reproducible page 1.]

- Introduce the **Concept** of this lesson. (See above.)
- Review the terms **biography, autobiography,** and **timeline** on the **Anchor Chart**.
- Direct students to the Elements of Biography and Autobiography instructional image, and guide students through the definitions of **person, legacy,** and **life**.
- Read and discuss the *So, what's in it for me?* section with students. (Optional: Review this section when the lesson is complete to reinforce the skill.)

## ⚡ PRACTICE

### **[Display Reproducible page 2, Part A.]**

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they read the biography.
- Prompt students: *Look at both the biography and the timeline. What do they have in common? (Both include details about events and dates in Dunbar's life.) If you wanted to picture the order of events in Dunbar's life, would you look at the biography or the timeline? Explain.* (the timeline because it helps the reader to remember events in the order they happened)

### **[Display Reproducible page 2, Part B.]**

- Read the directions with students.
- Review the Elements of Biography and Autobiography on the Anchor Chart as needed.
- Prompt students: *What words stand out to you as important? Which words connect to the element of the triangle that you are focusing on?*

### **[Display Reproducible page 3, Part C.]**

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they read the autobiography.
- Guide students through reading the autobiography of Gabby Evans.
- Prompt students: *What words stand out to you as important? Which words connect to the element of the triangle that you are focusing on?*

### **[Display Reproducible page 3, Part D.]**

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as needed.

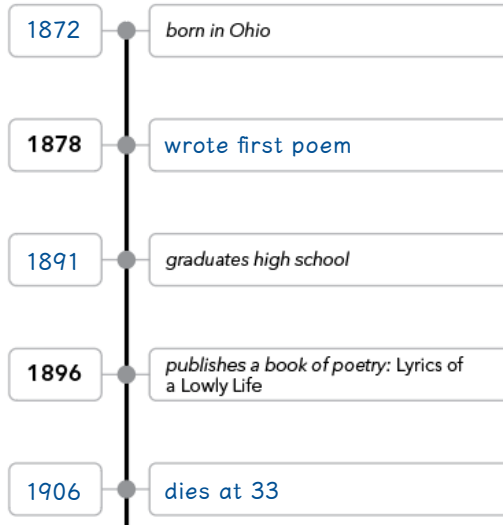
# ANSWER KEY FOR TEACHER REFERENCE

[Blank student copies are found on Reproducible pages 2 & 3.]

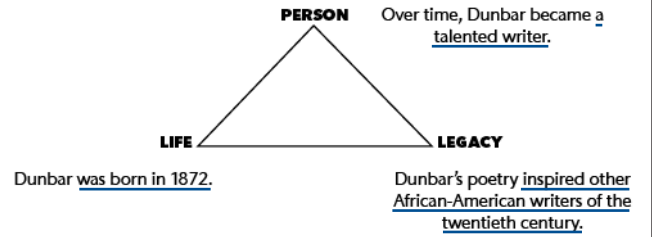
[Reproducible page 2, Part A]

1872	wrote first poem	1891	1906	dies at 33
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### Timeline of Important Events in Paul Laurence Dunbar's Life



[Reproducible page 2, Part B]



[Reproducible page 3, Part C]

Student answers may vary.

**Person:** A personal quality that describes Gabby Evans is she enjoys poetry.

**Life:** A major event that happened in Gabby Evans's life is she was born in 2003.

**Legacy:** A lasting impact Gabby Evans made is winning new instruments for her school band.

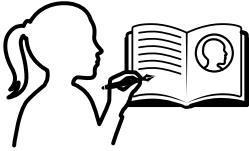
I found this evidence in section 2.

I found this evidence in section 1.

I found this evidence in section 3.

## ANCHOR CHART

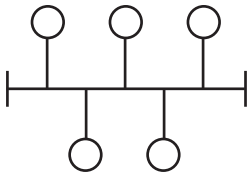
# Biography & Autobiography



A **biography** is a true story of a person's life written by another person.

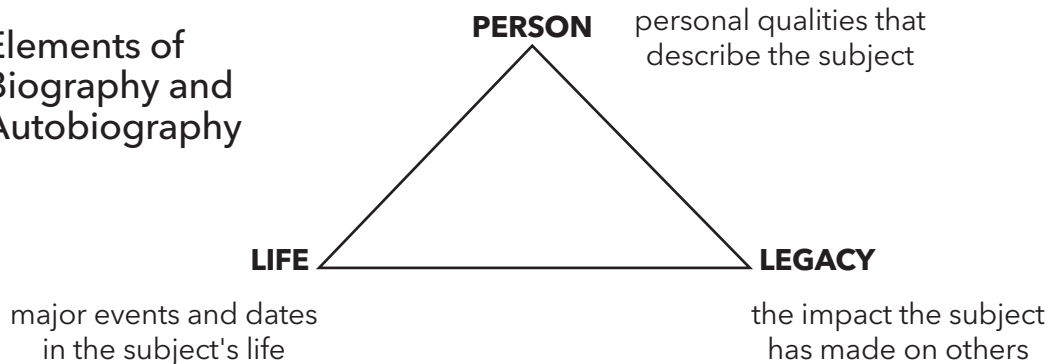


An **autobiography** is a true story that a person writes about his or her own life.



A **timeline** is a list of events along a line that shows when the events happen.

### Elements of Biography and Autobiography



So, let's say you're the type of person who likes facts and information. A biography is just the book for you!

Or say you're the type of person who prefers tales of action and adventure. A biography is just the book for you, too!

Maybe you're the type of person who loves fame, fashion, and fortune. You guessed it, biographies are for you, too!

There are just about as many different biographies as there are people in the world. Read one and find out who made a difference by being different.

A. Read the biography below. Then, use the terms in the box to fill in the blanks on the timeline.

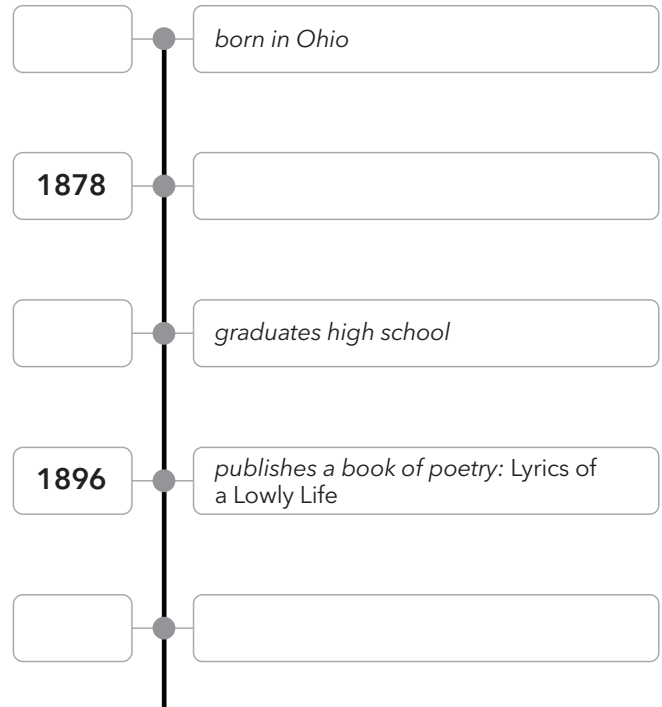
[1] American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in 1872. His parents were former slaves. His mother worked as a washerwoman. She taught her young son to read and urged him to do well in school. In 1878, at the young age of six, Dunbar wrote his first poem.

[2] In 1891, Dunbar graduated from school at the top of his class. Over time, Dunbar became a talented writer. He published twelve books of poetry. In 1896, he published his most popular book of poetry: *Lyrics of a Lowly Life*. He would have written more had he lived a fuller life. In 1906, when Dunbar was only 33, he died of an illness.

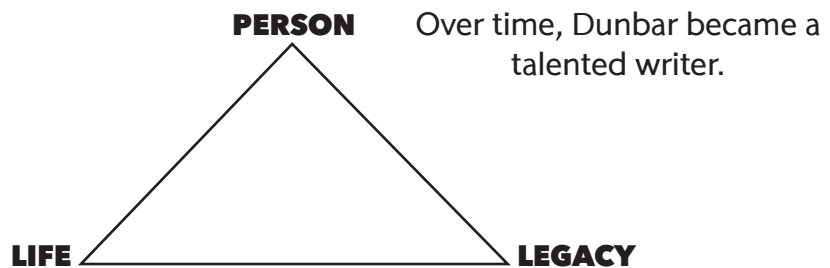
[3] Dunbar's life was short, but his influence was great. Dunbar's poetry inspired other African-American writers of the twentieth century.

1872	wrote first poem	1891	1906	dies at 33
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**Timeline of Important Events in Paul Laurence Dunbar's Life**



B. Review the biography above. Then, read each of the events listed on the Elements of Biography image below. Underline the word or words in each event that show WHY the event is an example of person, life, or legacy.



Dunbar was born in 1872.

Over time, Dunbar became a talented writer.

Dunbar's poetry inspired other African-American writers of the twentieth century.

C. Read the autobiography of Gabby Evans. Then, complete each of the sentence starters below.

[1] I was born to use my voice ... or so I am told. In 2003, I arrived in a hospital in South East London screaming, then hollering, then crying, then cooing. Fortunately, in the years to come, I learned to use my voice for things other than screaming, and hollering — thanks in large part to my dad who would read me a poem each night before bed.

[2] In 2011, I began writing my own short poems and reading them in front of my parents and brother. When I was 10, my Aunt Lou took to me the **2013 London Slam Poetry Competition**. She explained that Slam Poetry is a type of performance poetry in which people stand on stage in front of an audience and share a poem they wrote — usually the poem is about something important to the person. Then, the audience reacts to the poem.

[3] Over the next few years, I worked to write more poetry and perform it in front of friends and family. Then in 2015, I entered a Slam Poetry Competition in which I would compete against kids from other schools. When I got on stage and performed my poetry reading, I was amazed to receive a loud, booming response of praise from the audience. Not only did I win the grand prize — brand new instruments for our school band — but I also found a meaningful and poetic way to use my voice.

**Person:** A personal quality that describes Gabby Evans is

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I found this evidence in section \_\_\_\_\_.

**Life:** A major event that happened in Gabby Evans's life is

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I found this evidence in section \_\_\_\_\_.

**Legacy:** A lasting impact Gabby Evans made is

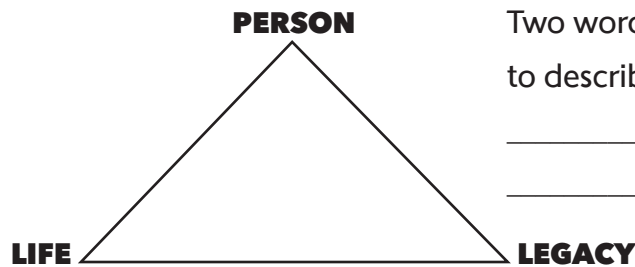
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I found this evidence in section \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Fill in the blanks below to complete the statements about yourself.



Two words I would use to describe myself are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

One important event in my life was when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

One positive way I hope to impact others is

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_