

Unit 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reader's Notebook

Reading Biographies

1. Why do you read biographies?

People read biographies generally to find out information about people they find interesting. Biographies are written for many different kinds of people, including historical figures, entertainers, athletes, politicians, religious figures, and human-rights activists. Biographies can be found in written form, online, and in movies.

2. Where can you find biographies to read?

Students may need examples of biographies if they aren't familiar with any. Some good examples of people who have had biographies written about them include Anne Frank, William Shakespeare, Christopher Columbus, Mother Theresa, and Queen Elizabeth II.

3. Think about a biography you have read. Who was it about? Why do you think this person was chosen for a biography?

Terry Fox is a good example of a Canadian hero who has had several biographies written about him. He was an athlete who had to have his right leg amputated in 1976 because of a form of bone cancer. In 1980, Fox started on the Marathon of Hope from St. John's, Newfoundland. He ran the equivalent of a full marathon every day. After 143 days, he had to stop running because the cancer had spread. He raised \$1.7 million for cancer research. Fox died in 1981 at the age of 22. Since 1981, the annual Terry Fox Run has raised \$500 million for cancer research. More information on Terry Fox can be found on this webpage: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2010/09/13/f-terry-fox-run-30.html>

4. What kinds of people have biographies written about them? Make a list of these people and what makes them interesting.