

Biographies

Created by Inaburra Senior Library 2019

Biographies tell the true story of real people's lives.

History of bios

- Biographies have been written since the ancient world
- In the ancient and medieval world biographies were usually written about royalty, religious figures or people who were politically significant
- The best known example is the bible, where Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are biographies of Jesus
- Plutarch, Suetonius and Tacitus were the first well known 'professional' biographers
- Biographies became very popular after WWI
- In recent years it has become popular to make film and tv adaptations of biographies

Common themes

- People who have had interesting or unusual lives
- People who have overcome a traumatic experience
- People who have made a significant contribution
- People who are famous, like singers, sportspeople, actors, or politicians
- Sometimes they are written by the people themselves, sometimes they are written by someone else

Popular bios

The diary of a young girl, by Anne Frank

Mao's last dancer, by Li Cunxin

Angela's ashes, by Frank McCourt

An astronaut's guide to life on earth, by Chris Hadfield

Between a rock and a hard place, by Aron Ralston

Chinese Cinderella, by Adeline Yen Mah

The flea: The amazing story of Leo Messi, by Michael Part

Hana's suitcase, by Karen Levine

The happiest refugee, by Anh Do

The hiding place, by Corrie Ten Boom

The hospital by the river, by Catherine Hamlin

I am Malala, by Malala Yousafzai

Mud, sweat and tears, by Bear Grylls

Soul surfer, by Bethany Hamilton