

Biography
Culminating Unit for 6th Grade Year
Students' Personal Quests

Course objectives covered this unit:

I, II, III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, XII, XIII

- Last Review of Goals

Review student goals for the last time of the year and have students turn in Quest Chest as final goals product.

- “Hook” for Biography Unit

Introduce biography as a “real” person’s quest. The teacher should read a short biography with students. Good sources include Biography.com, popular magazines—*Teen*, *Seventeen*, etc., newspapers and other biographical books. Teachers might also wish to show clips from popular biography television programs. (*VH1 Behind the Music*, *A&E Biography*, etc.) Discuss as a class the following regarding biographies:

1. organization
2. information included
3. how the author made the person feel real to the reader/viewer
4. the quest of the subject of the biography
5. what questions the author might have asked the subject of the biography to illicit interesting and informative information

- Biography Assignment

After completing the discussion, brainstorm as a class interesting questions that an interviewer might ask the subject of a biography in order to obtain the best and most interesting information. Keep questions focused on the quest of the individual. Students should record the questions. Next, create pairs and assign students to interview one another using questions from the brainstorming. Students should ask a minimum of twenty questions in order to obtain enough information for the upcoming assignment. Students then use the information to write an interesting and informative biography relating the quests of the classmates interviewed. Students should include a photograph of the subject of their biography. Advise students to stay focused on the theme of quest and to stay away from a general biography only detailing place and date of birth, etc.

- Sharing the Biography

Option 1

Read to the whole class.

Option 2

Read in small groups.

Option 3

Bind biographies together to create a class anthology.