

Important Concepts . . .

Preview Review



Language Arts

Grade 6

W2 - Lesson 3: Literary Genres 1

Important Concepts of Grade 6 Language Arts

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W1 - Lesson 2	Sentence Structure 2
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W1 - Lesson 5	Review

W1 - Quiz

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W3 - Lesson 4	Enhancing Content and Presentation
W3 - Lesson 5	Review

W3 - Quiz

Materials Required

Textbooks

*Cornerstones Anthologies
6A and 6B*

Language Arts Grade 6

Version 5

Preview/Review W2 - Lesson 3

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Preview/Review Concepts for Grade Six Language Arts



*W2 - Lesson 3:
Literary Genres 1*

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you should

- recognize the characteristics of the literary genres, biography and autobiography
- write in the biographical and autobiographical formats

GLOSSARY

autobiography - the story of a person as told by that person

biography - the story of a person as told by someone else

fiction - writing that deals with imaginary persons or events

genre - a category of writing

non-fiction - writing that deals with real persons or events

W2 - Lesson 3: Literary Genres 1

A **genre** (“john-ruh”) is simply a category of writing. Some stories are **non-fiction** (deal with real persons or events), and some stories are **fiction** (deal with imaginary persons or events). Within non-fiction and fiction literature are a variety of genres.

Non-fiction Literature Genres:

biography
autobiography
essay
narrative non-fiction
speech

Fiction Literature Genres:

fable
fairy tale
folktale
fantasy
science fiction
drama
mystery
horror

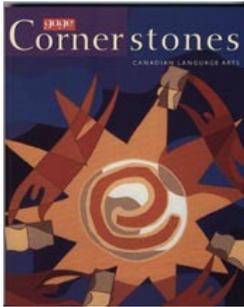
Biography and Autobiography

This lesson considers the non-fiction genres of **biography** and **autobiography**.

- **Autobiography** is the story of a person as told by that person.
- **Biography** is the story of a person as told by someone else.



The Genre of Autobiography



“Self-Portrait” on pages 20-21 of *Cornerstones 6b* is an autobiographical story by George Littlechild. He is a painter, printmaker, and mixed media artist whose works are exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the world. A member of the Plains Cree Nation of Canada, he was born in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1958 and now resides in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Read “Self-Portrait” and learn about the life of George Littlechild as told by Mr. Littlechild himself. Then return here.

A. Answer the following questions after reading “Self-Portrait”.

1. Why was George Littlechild confused about his identity when growing up?

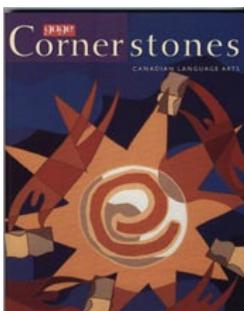
2. Why did he choose to make four different self-portraits?

3. What do you think he means by the term “rainbow man”?

B. Describe one other autobiographical story you have read. Remember that an autobiographical story is about a person as told by that person.

Perhaps you have read the story of a sports star, a movie star, a hero of some kind, or maybe a local person who has accomplished something and writes about his/her life.

The Genre of Biography



“Susan Aglukark: Singing Her Dreams” on pages 34-37 of *Cornerstones 6b* is a biographical story of a Canadian singer.

Susan Aglukark wanted to be a singer when she grew up, but she didn’t think it would ever be possible for a girl living in the far north. The author, Monica Kulling, gives the reader a biographical look at Susan’s life story.

Read “*Susan Aglukark: Singing Her Dreams*”, and then return here.

C. Answer the following questions after reading Susan’s biography.

1. What did Susan want to be when she was growing up?

2. What job did Susan have before becoming a singer?

3. What messages does Susan have for young Inuit when she speaks to them?

4. What is the biographer’s opinion of Susan as a role model? (The **biographer** is the writer of the article.)

D. Choose **one** of the following tasks.



1. Be a biography writer.

Write a mini-biography of your role model or your hero (one page maximum). Susan feels she is a “role model” for her people. Think about a role model you may have.

- Describe your hero and what the person does.
- Give as many details as you can about the person’s background and life events.
- Give the reasons you admire your hero.

OR

2. Be an autobiography writer.

Write a mini-autobiography. Yes – your life story! (one page maximum)

- Give some details about your background and life events or accomplishments.
- Write about your family, important people in your life, likes, and dislikes.
- Describe some future life goals.



