

Aims

1. To develop the skills of biographical writing, writing in a chronological order, and using paragraphs to separate events.

Resources

- ❖ Weblink: <http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/dragonsville/cave.htm>
- ❖ Activity sheets:
 - Writing the biography of a dragon

Introduction

This activity will ask the children to think about how they would describe people or animals from other than their own perspective. They will be asked to write a biography for one of the dragons in the gallery within the Cave of Fame.

Activities and points for discussion

- ❖ Look at several extracts from biographies that have been published within the Cave of Fame (<http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/dragonsville/biogallery.cfm>). Discuss the similarities that they all share.
- ❖ Does a biography contain fact, or fiction? Discuss why.
- ❖ Why do all the biographies begin with an introduction? What does this introduction contain? Why is this important to include?
- ❖ Discuss the progression of the biography. Is it written in a non-chronological or chronological way? Why is it important to write a biography this way?
- ❖ Look for examples of pronouns throughout the biography. Why are pronouns used? What effect does this have on the writing?
- ❖ How does the author move from one event to another? Is the use of paragraphs an effective way to change subject? Why else would the author use paragraphs throughout the biography?
- ❖ View the dragons in the Cave of Fame within Dragonsville and discuss what might have happened to them. Read the biographies that have been submitted to the website.
- ❖ Write a biography about one of the dragons and submit it to the site.

Follow Up

- ❖ Ask the children to research famous people throughout history and write a biography all about their life.
- ❖ Interview an older member of your family. Write a biography of them detailing the events of their life.
- ❖ Imagine yourself as a famous person from history, or one of the dragons of Dragonsville and write an autobiography about your life. This is different to a biography, because you will be writing about yourself in character.
- ❖ Visit Kids' Castle and try the diary activity (http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/castle/fm_lucy.html)

The autobiographies can be sent to Dragonsville for inclusion on the site.
(<http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/dragonsville/biog.htm>)

Children's writing and scanned pictures can be sent to kotn@ntu.ac.uk