

Lesson on Autobiography

- 1) Hand out strips to students with questions that will lead to creating my life map. Write the answers on the board in no specific order. (5 minutes)
- 2) Read the text with students and get them to guess what each paragraph represents. Each paragraph will represent an answer from the questions strips. Lead students to the answers by underlining words that will hint them to the answers on the board. Then put answers on a timeline. (15 minutes)
- 3) Add to your timeline 3 things that you will do in the future or would like to do. Show students the structure for “will” and “would like to” to represent future and future wishes. (10 minutes) (would like to go to Australia, will go to Greece this summer, and will graduate in June)
- 4) Have students create their own timeline of their life map. They must include 5 special events from their past and 3 elements they will do or would like to do in the future. (10 minutes)
- 5) They share with two other partners and write down one thing they learned about their partner. Discuss with them also what new things you can find out about them or what their classmates have found out about them. (10 minutes)
- 6) Tell students that now they will have to write their own autobiography. Show them an example of your autobiography and how you wrote it. Brainstorm some interesting titles and ways to start the autobiography. Go through the elements of the text so the students know what you expect of them (15 minutes)
 - Title
 - 3 elements from the past with a description + past tense (Irregular and –ed) + I
 - 2 elements in the future with a description + future tense → “I will” or “I would like to”
 - 200-250 words
 - 5 paragraphs (3 in the past, 2 for the future)
- 7) Begin writing their 1st draft
- 8) Next class continue your 1st draft + correct (peer review) + final draft.

I was always a bit scared of this place. It was big, cold, on a big street, and not a lot of kids were around when I first got there. At night, I used to wake up my brother to walk me down the hallway so I could use the bathroom, because I was afraid that the witches behind the doors would catch me.

I met my parents on May 20th, 1981. It was a beautiful spring day, but my mother did not feel very well. She was already in labor for 24 hours and was getting very tired. When my mother finally brought me into this world, I was not very healthy. I had to stay under a lamp for a few days because I had jaundice.

My favorite teachers were Miss Linda, Ornella, and Mr. Charlevoix. My friends and I used to hang out in different places. We liked to go downtown, to the mall, and rock concerts. When we graduated some of us lost touch, but some of us still talk to each other.

I had to move to Ottawa. It was the only program that had accepted in the field I wanted to study in. Once I had graduated, this degree helped me get a job in an international language school. Sometimes, I still miss that city, even though I hated it at first.

This was the most confusing time of my life. I had just finished high school, and I was not sure what program I should take. So I took the most general one which was social science. I finished the program in two years and a half, and I still was not sure of what I wanted to be.

Strips to hand out to students

When were you born? *

Where did you go to high school?*

Where was the first place you lived?*

Where did you go to college?*

Where did you go to university?*

When did you get your drivers license?

Ask students to ask you some questions as well and write answers on the board. The ones with asterisk will be the answers for inferring the paragraphs above.

My Life as Helen Karas

It was a warm day on May 20th, 1981 and Michael Jackson was the king of pop at that time. I was born at Santa- Cabrini Hospital in St-Leonard, Quebec. I was a bit sick with something called jaundice, but it was not a very serious threat to my life. A few days under a special lamp and I was fine.

After graduating from high school, I decided to attend Dawson College in their social science program. A very general program that gave me a look at different topics I could study later on in University. I especially liked economics, psychology, and English.

When I left Dawson College, I applied to Concordia University and Ottawa University. I decided to move away for three years, because I wanted to experience living on my own for a while. It was fun, but very expensive.

This summer I will go to Greece and visit my father. I will also visit a few other places in Greece. I will visit the island of Rhodes and Santorini. I want to go to the island of Rhodes because I have an aunt who lives there, and she takes me to the beach everyday.

In a few years, I would love to travel to many different places. First, I would love to travel to Ireland because it looks so green and pretty, and I love their English accent. Secondly, I would love to visit Australia even though they have big spiders there.