

## Biography Writing Unit Vocabulary

Please note: The students will not be responsible for memorizing all of the vocabulary listed. Most words will be discussed in context as stories are read aloud. Some vocabulary will be explicitly taught. The list of those words will be added shortly.

### INSTRUCTIONAL VOCABULARY

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achievement(s)	compare and contrast	essay	Inspire	publishing	simile
acknowledge	concluding statement	explore	Introduce/introduction	purpose	structure
additional	conclusion	extra features	lead	recognition	struggles
admire	concrete details	facts	logically	reference	subject
affect	conduct research	features	main idea	reflection	suspense
background knowledge	contrast	focus	mentor texts	research(ing)	synthesize
biographical texts	Dedication	generate ideas	metaphor	revise	theme
biography	describing	genre	monologue	revising	thesis
challenges	develop(ed)	Glossary	motivate	role model	time line
character	diaries	heritage	narrow down	secondary source	writing process
chronological order	drafting	history	organization	select an idea	
collecting	editing	influence	overcome obstacles	selected discography	
common features	engaging	information	potential subject	self-reflection	
compare	environment	informative	primary source	significant	

### MENTOR TEXTS VOCABULARY

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#### A Picture Book of Harry Houdini

appear	escape artist	keepsakes	ordinary	severely	trickery
appendix	exposed	locksmith	padlocks	spiritualists	
attracted	handcuffs	magician	rabbi	strait jacket	
coffin	illusions	matinee	ruptured	synagogue	
emerged	international	odd	secured	tense	

#### River Boy: The Story of Mark Twain

apprentice	earned	leadsmen	mining	perched	settled
articles	fever	lectures	navigate	rambunctious	spied
bold	flow	manuscripts	passages	riverbank	whitewash
comet	justice of the peace	measured	peered	row	

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### Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman

acre	civilians	goaded	notion	prosperity	sponsors
aviation	common laborer	haberdasheries	parlor	racist	stitches
aviatrix	commonplace	hauling	pastimes	record	tallied
bales	descendants	hoarding	persistence	rudder bar	technology
barnstormers	domestic	humble	pinched	sacrificed	tend
boasted	due	inferior	pioneers	sauntered	trade school
braced	elbow grease	investment	probing	segregation	vocation
brigade	exhibition	laundress	progressive	semester	
business tycoons	face value	manner	promote	signaled	
cause	figures	miser	propeller	sly	

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### Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books

bound	congress	frontier	peddlers	senate	unjust
brawn	corn husks	hinges	pioneers	settled	whittled
buckskin	corn pone	kin	politicians	stout	wilds
claimed	elected	makeshift	quill	stretched	yearned

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### Ladies First: Women Athletes Who Made a Difference

aboard	colt	equestrian	mounts	superstitious	turf
abrupt	connections	gain	position	thoroughbred	
agent	division	gear	reins	torrid	
Belmont Stakes	dominated	halt	slump	trailblazer	
collided	elusive	homestretch	stakes	Triple Crown	

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### Celia Cruz, Queen of Salsa

amateur	despite	fresh	local	pulsating	traditional
amongst	dictated	humorous	lullabies	rapid-fire	tropics
blended	fabled	Independence	melodies	salsa	
busybodies	flavor	initial	national	section	
claimed	folklore	Innovative	politics	trademark	

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### Who Was George Washington?

campaign	elections	general	mark	oath	praised
colonies	execution	Independent	monument	politician	tribute

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### Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream

arced	budge	inbounds	shift	taunted	will
barely	determination	opponent	stern	usual	

### Alvin Alley

accepted	congregation	gospel	modern	rhapsody	traditions
alley	dawdled	handbills	pew	sermon	tropical revue
announced	debut	haughty	plenty	sopranos	usual
beat	decent	heritage	premiered	stoops	
bellow	depicted	honky-tonk	races	techniques	
blues	dignity	jubilation	revelation	tempo	
choreography	exotic	locomotive	revelry	tenors	

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### Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought)

attraction	dribble	firmly	inconceivable	path
averaging	electrified	goals	masses	pursued