CHAPTER 09
Father of Indonesian Education

Taman Siswa 1st, Aug 1939

Picture 9.1 Source: lebongtercinta.wordpress.com

Di unduh dari: Bukupaket.com
CHAPTER 9  
Father of Indonesian Education

In this chapter you will:
- Read biography of Ki Hajar Dewantara
- Learn how to write biography
- Write a short biography
- Work together with your classmate

Prereading Activities

Personal Connection
Imagine 30 years from now someone will write a biography about you. What would you want the world to know about you? Focus on what you would do for people and your country.

Genre Connection
Biography is a subgenre of narrative nonfiction/historical nonfiction. Sometimes it is also called biographical recount. Biography presents the facts about an individual's life and makes an attempt to interpret those facts, explaining the person's feelings and motivations.
The earliest biographers were Plutarch and Cornelius Nepos. Plutarch wrote Parallel Lives and Cornelius Nepos wrote Vitae Imperator (lives of commanders) Harold Bloom, the known critic has claimed Life of Samuel Johnson by James Boswell as greatest biography written in the English Language (Oates, 1986).
The development of good character should be the heart and soul of education, and should dominate the spirit of teaching. This was the philosophy of the “Father of Education” in Indonesia, Ki Hajar Dewantara. The reason, he said, was that teaching and character building are like two sides of a coin and cannot, and should not be separated.

Education, by definition, means guiding student lives in a strong foundation of good character, so that they would be civilized humans of highest moral fibre, thus laying the foundation of a great nation without distinction of religion, ethnicity, customs, economic and social status.

Ki Hajar Dewantara was born in the royal family of Yogyakarta on 2nd May 1889. His given name was Raden Mas Suwardi Suryaningrat which he later changed to renounce his connections with the royal family. He transformed himself into an activist, columnist, politician and pioneer of education for Indonesians. He fought for rights of Indonesians during Dutch and Japanese colonial eras (www.tokoindonesia.com).

He was born into an aristocratic family that granted him the privilege of free access to education of his choice. He got his primary education from ELS (Europeesche Lagere School), then he continued his education at Stovia (Java Medical School) but due to health reasons he couldn’t finish it. He started writing for newspapers and eventually all his writings were focused on Indonesian patriotism, thus anti Dutch. He was involved in the early activities of Budi Utomo and the Indiesche Party, which were both important in the early development of the pergerakan, the “movement” that grew up with a nascent Indonesian national political consciousness (www.indonotes.wordpress.com).

He was exiled between 1913 and 1919 following the publication of two of
his articles: “Als ik eens Nederlander” (If I was a Dutchman) and “Eén voor allen en allen voor één” (One for all and all for one). He used his time in exile to learn more about education and obtained a Europeesche certificate (www.tokoindonesia.com).

Following his return, he focused more on cultural and educational efforts paving way to develop educational concepts in Indonesia. He believed that education is very important and the most important means of freeing Indonesians from clutches of colonization. He played a leading role in establishing “National Onderwijs Institut Taman Siswa” in 1922. This institution was established to educate native Indonesians during colonial times. This institution was based on these principles:

1. Ing Ngarsa Sung Tuladha (the one in front sets example).
2. Ing Madya Mangun Karsa (the one in the middle builds the spirit and encouragement).
3. Tut Wuri Handayani (the one at the back gives support) (indonotes.wordpress.com).

As Ki Hajar believed that character was not merely a theoretical concept, but a practical and living concept, he embodied his vision in his school, Taman Siswa. The central goals of Taman Siswa emphasized character building, including traits such as patriotism and love for the nation, and a sense of national identity. His vision was that Indonesians would be free from colonial powers, to fight for independence and have good character. He continued writing but his writings took a turn from politics to education. These writings later laid foundation of Indonesian education. Froebel, Montessori and Tagore influenced his educational principles and in Taman Siswa he drew some inspiration from Tagore’s Shantiniketan (asrirahayudamai.wordpress.com).

After independence, he was given the office of Minister of Education and Culture. For his efforts in pioneering education for the masses, he was officially declared Father of Indonesian Education and his birthday is celebrated as National Education Day. His portrait was on 20,000 rupiah note till 2002. He was officially confirmed as a National Hero of Indonesia by the 2nd President of Indonesia on 28th November 1959 (Tokohindonesia.com).

Ki Hajar Dewantara passed away on 26th April 1952 at the age of 69 years. His wife donated all Ki Hajar’s belongings to Dewantara Kirti Griya Museum, Yogyakarta. He was a great man who spent his whole life serving his people and country.
Post-Reading Activity

Discussion Questions

Read the questions carefully. Note down your opinions and reactions to the questions. During the discussion with your teacher and classmates, offer your personal reaction and understanding of the text.

1. Why do we need biographies? What is their purpose?
2. What information can we find about a person by reading a biography? Discuss.
3. From Ki Hajar Dewantara's biography, how would you describe him?
5. Responsibility is being accountable to God and to others as you do your duties or obligations in a faithful way. Do you think Ki Hajar Dewantara was a responsible person? How did he show it? Discuss.
6. Think of an example of task or event in your life that required responsibility. Were you responsible in fulfilling this duty or obligation? Share your example.
7. Do you think there were some significant events that changed Ki Hajar Dewantara's life? How did those events shape or change him? Discuss.
8. What kind of impact did Ki Hajar Dewantara have on people? Discuss.
9. Ki Hajar Dewantara has had great impact on Indonesian struggle for freedom, especially education. Discuss with your peers what may have been different if he was not there.
10. Ki Hajar made lot of sacrifices for his country. If you were in his place, what would you do? Describe.
11. What did you know about the Ki Hajar Dewantara prior to reading his short biography? Did you learn anything new about him? Did anything you read changed your opinion about him?

Discussion Notes:
Imagine you are Ki Hajar Dewantara. Write what a regular day in your life is like. Use mostly Simple Present tense, since you will talk about daily routines, but make sure you use Present Continuous tense to talk about temporary situation (e.g. Today, I am going to talk to my friends about establishing Taman Siswa).
A biography is an account of someone’s life written by someone else. The word biography comes from Medieval Greek, from Bios = life + graphia = writing = biography.

A short Biography focuses only on highlights of a person’s life.

A long Biography talks about life and times of someone in a lot more detail.

Biographies can be few words long or they can fill an entire book or two.

Biographies analyze and interpret the events in a person’s life. They try to find connections and explain the meaning of unexpected actions or mysteries.

Biographies bring to light accomplishments or life achievements of people. It opens readers’ eyes to people who have made a difference in the world.
Common Characteristics of Biography

A biography:
- is not written by the subject
- is always written in third person.
- is based on research not on imagination.
- describes the person’s surroundings (where, when and how the person lived).
- shows how the person affected other people’s life through their behavior, discoveries, social reform etc.
- provides examples that demonstrate the person's behavior, their accomplishments, goal, etc.
- supplies details that illustrate the person’s individuality.
- uses vivid language to narrate events (Rosinsky, 2008).

Format of a Biography

A biography is a form of recount, so the structure resembles a recount structure:
- Introduction
- Important events in chronological order and interpretation
- Closing remarks

Elements:
- Setting time and place (where the person’s life events took place and when it took place)
- Factual information about the person (the information has to be real, not fabricated)

Print Features: Graphic Devices Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print Features:</th>
<th>Graphic Devices</th>
<th>Forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Bold, italic font</td>
<td>- Charts</td>
<td>- Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Colored print</td>
<td>- Timelines</td>
<td>- Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bullets</td>
<td>- Photographs</td>
<td>- Letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Titles</td>
<td>- Maps</td>
<td>- Encyclopedia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Subtitles</td>
<td>- Tables</td>
<td>- Textbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Potraits</td>
<td>- Memoirs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Painting</td>
<td>- Diaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some questions to focus on while writing biographies

- Who?
- Why?
- Where?
- What?
- When?
- How?

Tips for writing a biography

- It is important to hook your readers by using a title, which makes your biography sound interesting.
  
  Example:
  The girl who changed ..........  
  The boy who survived ..........  

- Use strong sentences to grab reader’s attention.
  
  Example:
  Can you imagine a little girl........
  How would you feel being exiled .........  

- It is important to use clear transitions.
  
  Before........
  After....
  Then....
  Eventually.....  

- Enhance your biography by dividing it into proper paragraphs and conclusion.
  
  Paragraph 1
  Paragraph 2
  Paragraph 3
  Conclusion

(Rosinsky, 2008)
Word Power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>develop</td>
<td>diˈ vɛləp</td>
<td>Grow or cause to grow and become more mature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dominate</td>
<td>ˈdɒmɪneɪt</td>
<td>Have power and influence over someone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philosophy</td>
<td>fiˈ lɒsəfi</td>
<td>Study of fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>civilize</td>
<td>ˈsɪvɪlɪz</td>
<td>Bring to the stage of social development considered as more advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>distinction</td>
<td>diˈ stɪ ɪ (k)ʃ(ə)n</td>
<td>Difference between similar things or people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>renounce</td>
<td>riˈ nɑʊns</td>
<td>Formally give up claim or possession of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pioneer</td>
<td>ˈpɔɪər ˈniər</td>
<td>The person who is among the first to explore something new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nascent</td>
<td>ˈnas(ə)nt</td>
<td>Just coming into existence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>embody</td>
<td>ɪmˈbɒdi</td>
<td>Include or contain something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emphasize</td>
<td>ˈɛmfəsɪz</td>
<td>Give special importance to something</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let's Practice

A. Read the information given below and write short biographies about the heroes of Indonesia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Cut Nyak Dhien or Tjoet Nja' Dhien</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date and place of birth</td>
<td>1848/Lampadang, Aceh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s name</td>
<td>Teuku Nanta Setia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>Teuku Cek Ibrahim Lamnga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Cut Gambang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accomplishments</td>
<td>National Hero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and place of death</td>
<td>6th November 1908/Sumedang, West Java</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Biography of Cut Nyak Dhien

#### Name
Raden Ajeng Kartini

#### Date and place of birth
21st April 1879/Jepara, central Java, Dutch East Indies

#### Mother's name
Ngasirah

#### Father's name
Sosroningrat

#### Siblings
7

#### Spouse
Raden Adipati Joyodiningrat

#### Children
One son

#### Accomplishments
- National Hero
- Women's emancipation
- Established school for women

#### Date and place of death
17th September 1904/Rembang, Central Java, Dutch East Indies
2. Fill in the blanks with words given below:

emphasize, renounce, civilize, dominate, developed, philosophy, distinction, pioneer, nascent, embody,

1. Ki Hajar __________________ his aristocratic title to get more close to people.
2. The educational __________________ of Taman Siswa is deeply rooted in principles of Ki Hajar Dewantara.
3. Project based learning __________________ on active learning.
4. My mother believes that we always have to behave in a __________________ manner.
5. My brother has __________________ a strong liking for Lampung coffee.
6. Mary __________________ the stage throughout the play. She has a strong personality.
7. Our batch is the __________________ of Project based learning in our school.
8. My sister’s ________ acting career as of yet has only a few short ad films to show for.
9. She has __________________ all the revolutionary ideas.
10. There should not be any __________________ between humans. All are created by God.
You are writing a biography about your friend. You will interview your friend to get information you need for the biography. Below are some questions to help you, but you can also write your own questions.
- When and where were you born?
- How many siblings do you have?
- What kind of childhood did you have?
- What do your parents do?
- What are your interests and hobbies?
- Who is your hero?
- What is your favorite song?
- Who is your favorite singer?
- What is your favorite book?
- Who is your favorite writer?
- Who has major influence on you?
- What are your dreams and aspirations?
- What do you want to do in the future?
- Do you have any dreams for your country and future?
- Do you have any achievements or awards?
- If you had to do one thing for your country, what would it be?
- Where would you like to live in the future?
Write a short biography on a person of your choice. Follow the format of biography writing you have learnt in building blocks. Once you are done with the biography, give it to anyone of your classmates for peer editing. Correct the mistakes and give the biography to your teacher. You can publish your writing on a blog or display it on the wall in your class.

Your biography should be arranged like this:

Title:
Opening Paragraph (use opening hook)
Main Idea (tell the readers who the biography is about and why he/she is important)
Paragraphs (about childhood, adulthood, accomplishments)
Closing statement.
Let’s Create/Contribute

Make a biography poster for a person you consider as a hero. Fill in the details in the poster given below. You can use the same poster or make a different one based on your creativity. After you are done, display the poster on the soft board or the wall in your classroom.

Sample biography poster

Picture 9.4 (Source: Kemendikbud)
Use the graphic organizer to fill information about anyone of your parents or grand parents. Once you have all the information, write a short biography.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place of birth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siblings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood experiences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accomplishments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacrifices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I can do this.

Complete these statements:
1. The most interesting thing I learnt in this chapter was ........
2. The part I enjoyed most was ........
3. I would like to find more about ........
4. The hardest part in this chapter was ........
5. I need to work harder at ........

Read the statements below and tick (✓) the option that is most applicable to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The biography was easy to understand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know how to write a biography.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can write a biography.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like writing reflections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I will continue writing reflections.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

My plan to overcome difficulties of this chapter

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