Name _____   Date _____

Sample Biography

The writer includes the name of the person he or she is writing about.

Mae Jemison: Star Child

The introduction grabs the reader's attention with a question.

Have you ever dreamed of flying freely through outer space surrounded by a sea of stars? Mae Jemison fulfilled that dream. On September 12, 1992, aboard the spaceship *Endeavour*, she became the first African-American woman to blast into outer space. This wasn't the only time, however, that Jemison had reached for the stars and realized her dreams.

The writer lets the reader know who the biography is about.

The writer provides information about Jemison's childhood.

Jemison was born on October 17, 1956, in Decatur, Alabama, but she grew up in Chicago, Illinois. There weren't many African-American female role models while Jemison was growing up, but she didn't let that stop her from achieving her goals. She was especially interested in anthropology, archaeology and astronomy. Luckily, her parents encouraged those interests. That encouragement drove her to excel. She graduated from high school at 16! Then she earned degrees in chemical engineering and African-American studies at Stanford University. Soon after, she graduated from Cornell University's medical school. No obstacle was too great for Jemison to overcome!

The writer uses Jemison's education as an example that shows how she worked hard to achieve her goals.

The writer gives examples of Jemison's accomplishments.

Jemison's accomplishments did not end there. In 1981, she joined NASA's space program in Houston, Texas. In 1988, however, Jemison realized her biggest dream: She finally became an astronaut! Just four years later, she was named Science Mission Specialist (another NASA first) on the *Endeavour* flight.

Today she encourages young people, especially women and girls, to study the sciences. Her life example teaches us to follow our dreams, no matter how great!

The writer's conclusion lets the reader know why Jemison is an important person to learn about.