

Grade 8

Reading Biography

Journey Through the Pages: The Life of Mary Williams

Passage: Mary Williams, a notable biographer and literary enthusiast, was born on a sunny day in April 1970 in a small town in Oregon. Growing up, she found solace and companionship in the pages of books. Her parents, both teachers, encouraged her love for reading from a young age, introducing her to a world of classic literature and contemporary masterpieces.

As a young girl, Mary was captivated by the stories of adventure and bravery. She would spend hours in her room, reading and traveling to far-off lands with her imagination. Her favorite book was *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, which she read for the first time when she was just 10 years old. This book left a profound impact on her, sparking her interest in social justice and the complexities of human nature.

In high school, Mary became an active member of the debate team and the school newspaper. She wrote articles on various topics, but her favorite pieces were book reviews and author interviews. Her passion for literature was evident to everyone around her, and her teachers saw a bright future ahead.

After graduating high school, Mary pursued a degree in English Literature at the University of Oregon. During her college years, she explored different genres and discovered her love for biographies. She was fascinated by the lives of historical figures and literary icons. She realized that she wanted to delve deeper into their stories and share them with the world.

Mary's first biography, published at the age of 30, was a comprehensive account of the life of Virginia Woolf. The book was critically acclaimed, praised for its meticulous research and compelling narrative. This success was just the beginning, as Mary went on to write

several more biographies, each earning her awards and recognition in the literary community.

Now in her fifties, Mary continues to write and inspire young readers. She believes that through reading biographies, people can learn valuable life lessons and gain a deeper understanding of the world. Mary Williams has dedicated her life to storytelling, ensuring that the lives of remarkable individuals are remembered and celebrated for generations to come.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. In which state was Mary Williams born?

- A) California
- B) Oregon
- C) Washington
- D) Texas

2. Which book had a profound impact on Mary as a child?

- A) *The Great Gatsby*
- B) *Pride and Prejudice*
- C) *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- D) 1984

3. What was one specific genre that Mary explored in college?

- A) Fiction
- B) Biographies
- C) Poetry
- D) Science Fiction

4. What role did Mary's parents play in her love for reading?

- A) They discouraged her
- B) They were indifferent
- C) They encouraged her
- D) They did not play any role

5. What did Mary do in high school related to her passion for literature?

- A) Joined the debate team and school newspaper
- B) Started a book club
- C) Wrote a novel
- D) Became a librarian assistant

6. Where did Mary pursue her degree in English Literature?

- A) Harvard University
- B) University of Oregon
- C) Stanford University
- D) Yale University

7. What was the subject of Mary's first biography?

- A) Mark Twain
- B) Jane Austen
- C) Virginia Woolf
- D) Emily Dickinson

8. How did the literary community react to Mary's first book?

- A) They ignored it
- B) They criticized it
- C) They praised it
- D) They banned it

9. What did Mary believe can be gained from reading biographies?

- A) Entertainment only
- B) A deeper understanding of the world
- C) Writing skills
- D) Nothing

10. How old was Mary when she read *To Kill a Mockingbird* for the first time?

- A) 8 years old
- B) 10 years old
- C) 12 years old
- D) 14 years old

1. Correct Answer: B) Oregon *Explanation: The passage states that Mary was born in a small town in Oregon.*
2. Correct Answer: C) *To Kill a Mockingbird* *Explanation: Mary read "To Kill a Mockingbird" when she was 10 years old, and it left a profound impact on her.*
3. Correct Answer: B) Biographies *Explanation: The passage mentions that Mary explored many genres and discovered her love for biographies.*
4. Correct Answer: C) They encouraged her *Explanation: Mary's parents, being teachers, encouraged her love for reading from a young age.*
5. Correct Answer: A) Joined the debate team and school newspaper *Explanation: In high school, Mary was an active member of the debate team and the school newspaper.*
6. Correct Answer: B) University of Oregon *Explanation: Mary pursued her degree in English Literature at the University of Oregon.*
7. Correct Answer: C) Virginia Woolf *Explanation: Mary's first biography was a comprehensive account of the life of Virginia Woolf.*
8. Correct Answer: C) They praised it *Explanation: Mary's first biography was critically acclaimed and earned her recognition in the literary community.*
9. Correct Answer: B) A deeper understanding of the world *Explanation: Mary believes that people can learn valuable life lessons and gain a deeper understanding of the world through reading biographies.*
10. Correct Answer: B) 10 years old *Explanation: The passage states that Mary was 10 years old when she first read To Kill a Mockingbird.*