

How to Create a Short Biography:

A text-based task demo for language teaching using the model text “Tintoretto” by *Encyclopædia Britannica*

STEPS 3 & 4 TEACHING SLIDES

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How to write a short biography of a painter

Step 3 - Deconstruction

Learning objectives for today

- The purpose of the genre *short biography*
- The organizational features of a *short biography*
- Selected textual features used by the author to realize the purpose of the genre

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENRE. WHAT IS A GENRE?

CAN YOU MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF GENRE?

Tintoretto

(1518?–94). The energy and excitement of the Renaissance radiate from the paintings of the Italian master Tintoretto. Dramatic composition and the bold use of changing light make his work unique.

Little is known of Tintoretto's life. He was born Jacopo Robusti in Venice in about 1518. His father worked as a *tintore*, or dyer of cloth, so Jacopo became known as Tintoretto, "little *tintore*." Tradition says his heroes were the painters Michelangelo and Titian, but Tintoretto early developed a distinctive style.

His treatment of light and shade was as vivid as lightning flashing amid storm clouds. His skill in composition created images of vast space crossed with strong curves and angles with subjects arranged in ways unusual for the period. For example, in *The Last Supper*, Jesus, the apostles, and angels are all present; however, the figures that are prominent in the foreground are humble serving people and domestic animals who seem unaware of the religious significance of the event.

At first Tintoretto had difficulty finding work, but gradually his reputation grew. In 1547 he was commissioned to paint scenes from the life of St. Mark, the patron saint of Venice, for the "school of St. Mark". The first of these is the exuberant *St. Mark Freeing the Slave*, which made him a center of attention. By 1555 he was famous and quite popular. He began a decade of work in the decoration of the church of the Madonna dell'Orto.

In order to compete for work in the "school of St. Roch", Tintoretto secretly mounted his sample on a ceiling of the school and unveiled it as if it were a finished product. He won the competition and began two decades of work in the school.

Tintoretto painted not only religious subjects but also portraits and scenes from myth and fable. Among his finest works are *Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple* (1552), *Cana Wedding* (1561), and *Crucifixion* (1565). Tintoretto died in Venice on May 31, 1594.

Stages and functions

Stages	Functions

Textual features

Feature	Evidence from the text or example

Homework. Referring to the table “Stages and Functions”, for our next class, bring to class **two facts** about the painter **Paolo Veronese** for every stage we created together in class.

This is the list of reliable sources in English:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paolo_Veronese

<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/search/actor:veronese-paolo-15281588>

<https://www.wga.hu/frames-e.html?/bio/v/veronese/biograph.html>

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/artists/paolo-veronese>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Paolo-Veronese>



How to write a short biography of a painter

Step 4 – Joint Construction

Learning objectives for today

- We will learn the main events about the life and work of painter Paolo Veronese
- We will review the stages, functions, and textual features necessary to write a short biography

