



## Year 5 English Graduate Award Scheme

### What is a biography?

A biography is a piece of non-fiction writing all about a person and their life. It is written about them by somebody else. If the person writes it themselves, it is called an autobiography.

A biography includes lots of information about the person's life and their achievements.

Key elements to include in a biography are:

- date and place of birth (and death, if applicable)
- current location of residence.
- educational background.
- professional experience.
- area of expertise.
- major achievements

### Who is Cressida Cowell?



Cressida Cowell was born on 15 April 1966 in London. She is the daughter of Michael Hare, 2nd Viscount Blakenham. Cressida Cowell is currently the Waterstones Children's Laureate (2019 – 2022). She was appointed MBE in 2020 for services to children's literature.

As a child, Cowell states she "grew up in London and on a small, uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland,"<sup>[5]</sup> and that it was during summers spent on the Inner Hebrides,<sup>[6]</sup> where she first began to develop her writing and drawing skills:

*"I spent a great deal of time as a child on a tiny, uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland...By the time I was eight, my family had built a small stone house on the island, and with the boat, we could nearly fish for enough food to feed the family for the whole summer.*

*"From then on, every year we spent four weeks of the summer and two weeks of the spring on the island. The house was lit by candle-light, and there was no telephone or television, so I spent a lot of time drawing and writing stories."*

Cowell attended Keble College, Oxford where she studied English, and she also attended Saint Martin's School of Art and Brighton University where she learned illustration.

Find out more information about Cressida Cowell here; [Cressida Cowell | Hachette UK](https://www.hachette.co.uk/author/cressida-cowell)



### What has she written?

- How to train your dragon series
- Emily Brown series
- The Wizards of Once books
- Little Bo Peep's Troublesome Sheep
- Don't Do That Kitty, Kilroy
- What Shall We Do with the Boo-Hoo Baby
- There's No Such Thing as a Ghostie
- Daddy on the Moon
- Hiccup the Seasick Viking

### Element 1

Choose one of Cressida Cowell's famous books to read. Share it with an adult at home or school and talk about what you like about it.

Create a quiz all about Cressida Cowell. You could use Forms to do this through your teams account.

### Example questions

1. When and where was Cressida Cowell born?
2. What is a Laureate?
3. What is an MBE?

### Element 2

Using what you now know about the author, write a biography about them.

Use these headings: Names. Growing up. Books written. Inspiration. Special Facts. Major achievements. Favourite book (include a description and why we should read it)