Student name, date, block:

Objective: SWBAT use online sources to analyze an author’s life (biographical events) IOT determine what aspects of her/his life impacted his writing.

**Biographical Approach:**

The Biographical Approach investigates the life of an author using primary texts, such as letters, diaries, and other documents, that might reveal the experience, thought, and feelings that led to the creation of a literary work.

Common Questions for the Biographical Approach:

* What aspects of the author’s personal life are relevant to this story?
* Which of the author’s stated beliefs are reflected in the work?
* Does the writer challenge or support the values of her contemporaries?
* What seem to be the author’s major concerns? Do they reflect any of the writer’s personal experiences?
* Do any of the events in the story correspond to events experienced by the author?
* Do any of the characters in the story correspond to real people?

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| Author’s life event | Literary/ Other Work & connection to real life |
| **Sample: Gary Paulsen: from** **World Book.com**Paulsen was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 17, 1939. He bases much of his fiction and nonfiction on his own outdoor experiences as a hunter, trapper, and dog sled racer in the famous Iditarod race in Alaska. | **For example: “**In *Hatchet* (1987), a teen-aged boy named Brian Robeson must survive alone in the Canadian wilderness with the aid of only a hatchet. Paulsen wrote four other novels about the boy, *The River* (1991), *Brian’s Winter* (1996), *Brian’s Return* (1999), and *Brian's Hunt* (2004). In *Guts: The True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books* (2001), Paulsen reveals the parallels between his life and his main fictional characters….” |
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| Author’s life event | Literary/ Other Work & connection to real life |
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*The Giver---by Lois Lowry The Cay*

*A Tale of Two Cities\*                   The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman
Alice in Wonderland                                 The Killer Angels\*
The Light in the Forest                            A Raisin in the Sun
Brave New World                                     A Midsummer Night’s Dream\*
Farewell to Manzanar\* Esperanza Rising
The Lightening Thief*