



# Something Amazing Has Happened

By Robert

During the last two years I have been with Read Write Now and my tutor Jan, I have come to realise the fun and enjoyment I receive from reading and writing, after being totally illiterate for fifty three years.

When I first phoned the office of Read Write Now, I spoke to a man who sounded like he was a kind and gentle person, and he did not make me feel as if I was from another world. Sure, I was ashamed and embarrassed for asking for help, but he reassured me that everything would be alright. He said, “We will find a tutor in a day or two for you.”

As sure as God made little green apples, in a week or two I was on my way. With my new tutor, we began to put together some work that was almost like being at school again. At first, it was very slow and sometimes just embarrassing. After three months I started to feel as if I was getting somewhere.

Now two years on, I am really starting to find out all about myself and, am able to read and write letters. I am also writing my autobiography, so that my family can read my life story. It is very important for us to go about our daily work, reading and writing, in this paper world we live in.

In August 2005, I was nominated for an award at the Adult Learners’ Week in September. I knew I had been working very hard at home, and with my tutor, spending about six or seven

hours a week. Looking back, I can now see why she nominated me for being an outstanding student.

Time passed. I had forgotten all about being nominated. I went away with my wife, to spend some time with my Dad on holiday in Victoria.

About the end of August, my son and daughter were notified by mail that I was one of many nominees for the award. On that big night in September, at the 10th Anniversary Award Presentation, it would have been amazing if I had been there along with all the other students who had been nominated. I am sure they would have been very proud of themselves, but all students who work very hard are winners in my eyes.

On that night, my name was called as the Outstanding Learner for 2005. In my absence the award was accepted by Read Write Now Coordinator Carisa Campbell, from the Minister of Education and Training, the Honourable. Ljiljana Ravlich, MLC.

One week later, my wife and two children, together with my tutor, had organised their own presentation for me, but the biggest surprise came when Carisa came to present me with my award. She offered lots of kind words of encouragement and was just great.

In summing up, I must say, this award has given me enormous satisfaction and a great sense of personal achievement. I thank God for Read Write Now and for all the tutors who give up their time to make someone's life richer, easier and happier.



Sum up Robert’s story in one paragraph.

First, you need to think about the whole story. How does it begin? What happens next? Where does the story-line go? Then decide what to leave out – the details, for instance. Give your paragraph a title.

Title: .....

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### Quick Quiz



How long did it take Robert to feel he was “getting somewhere”?

.....

How long has he been with Read Write Now? .....

For how long was Robert, in his own words, “totally illiterate”?

.....

What award did he win? .....

How much time did Robert invest in his literacy study each week?

.....

**Note:**

A **biography** is a life story. The word comes from Greek, ‘bios’ meaning life, and ‘graphia’ meaning a record or an account. In Greek, ‘auto’ means self - so **autobiography** means a life story written by yourself, ie, your own life story.



**Find the word in the text that fits each definition:**

support, praise, helpful words/actions .....

person selected to compete for an award .....

exceptionally good, above all others .....

your own life story, written by yourself .....

feeling bad, inadequate, guilty .....

*For this last one, there are 2 possibilities. Pick whichever you like.*

**Identify who did what!** Tick off each participant for each column.

Person	Doing tutoring	Went away to Victoria	Notified by mail	Award winner	Attended the home presentation
Robert					
His wife					
His children					
Coordinator Carisa					
Robert's Tutor					



**Complete these sentences.** Then add 1 or more sentence which explains why you made each choice.

What I **like** about this text is .....

.....

.....

.....

What surprised me in this text was .....

.....

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.....

**Proofread to find the errors** in the copy below.  
Write the **correct** spelling below each mistake.



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There are some everyday **verbs** (action words) in this text – such as ‘phoned’, ‘spoke’, ‘sounded’, ‘read’/’reading’ and ‘write’/’writing’.

There are also some more interesting verbs:  
reassured, nominated, notified, accepted, organised, summing (up)

**Can you turn each of these verbs into nouns?** For example,

- |              |         |                       |
|--------------|---------|-----------------------|
| reassured    | becomes | .....reassurance..... |
| nominated    | becomes | .....                 |
| notified     | becomes | .....                 |
| accepted     | becomes | .....                 |
| organised    | becomes | .....                 |
| summing (up) | becomes | summary or summation  |

**Choose one (only)** of the words below. See how many shorter words you can make out of the letters. Circle your chosen word.

**achievement ~ satisfaction ~ outstanding**

Use each letter only as many times as it appears in the word.  
For example, if you choose satisfaction, you have 2’s’s and 2’a’s.

4-letter words	5-letter words	6-letter words <i>Quite difficult!</i>	7 or more letters <i>Very difficult!</i>