

# Time Capsule

## GUIDELINES

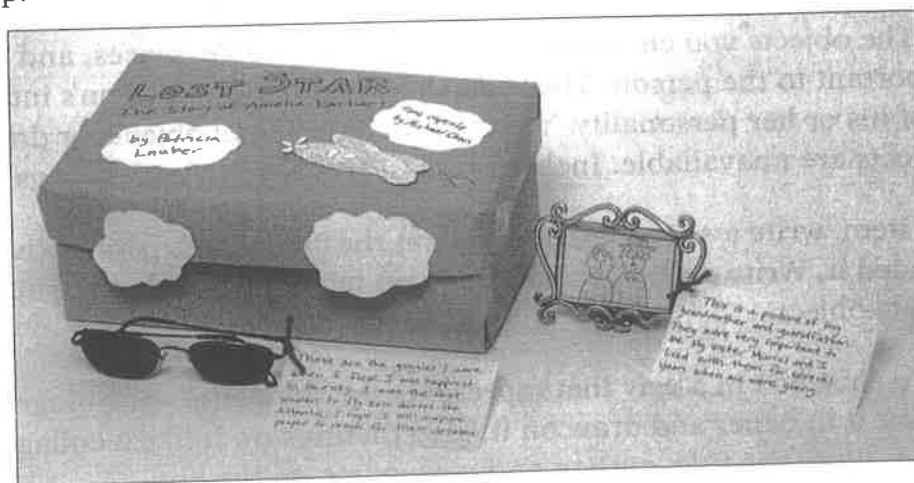
**Objective:** Students create a time capsule that represents the subject of a biography or memoir and write an explanation for each object they include.

Start by discussing objects that are significant to students. Help students to understand the difference between objects they like (video games, shoes, and so on) and objects that might have a deeper meaning for them. Explain that a symbol is an object that represents something important. It symbolizes something else that is more significant than the object itself.

Explain that students will imagine that they are the subjects of their books and that they will create a time capsule about the person. They should put themselves in the person's shoes and ask themselves what they would like future generations to learn about them. Then, they will choose objects that represent important information about the person. Students will also write a brief paragraph explaining why they included each object. They should write in the first person, as if they are the characters—for example, "I included this letter from my best friend to show how important friendships are to me."

Explain that time capsules are more fun to open if they include actual objects, but students should not include objects that are valuable. If they cannot find a particular object, students can draw a picture instead.

Students will decorate a shoe box to represent the person. They will store the objects and explanations inside. For a class activity, divide the class into small groups. Pass the time capsules around for each group to open and read. After a few minutes, have each group put everything back in the time capsule and pass it to the next group.



## Biography/Memoir

# Time Capsule

Imagine that the subject of your book made a time capsule to let future generations know about his or her life. What would the person have included? Create a time capsule and write a brief description of each item inside.

DUE DATES
Book approved _____
Book finished _____
Project finished _____

### MATERIALS

shoe box, white construction paper, 3- by 5-inch index cards, markers or colored paper, found objects

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 Find a biography or memoir that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Brainstorm a list of important people, places, objects, and events in the person's life.

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- 3 Imagine that you are that person and you are creating a time capsule. Refer to the list from the previous question to give you ideas about the objects you might include. The objects you choose can represent the people, places, and events that were important to the person. They can also represent the person's interests or aspects of his or her personality. You may include actual objects or drawings of them if the objects are unavailable. Include at least five objects or drawings.

- 4 For each item, write a short paragraph from the character's perspective about why you included it. Write each explanation on an index card and attach it to the appropriate object.

- 5 Decorate a shoe box in a way that represents the subject of your biography. You might cover it in paper and draw on it, glue pictures on it like a collage, or otherwise decorate it. Write the title, author, and your name on the box.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

## Time Capsule

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

	Student Check	Possible Points	Points Earned
Was your book approved by the due date?		5	
Did you hand in this rubric with your project?		5	
Did you hand in your project on time?		10	
Did you make a list of important people, places, objects, and events? (This should be put in the time capsule, or written on the box somewhere)		10	
Did you include at least five objects or drawings in a time capsule?		15	
Did the objects represent important information about the book?		20	
Did you write at least five thoughtful explanations?		15	
Did you decorate your time capsule and write the title, author, and your name on it?		10	
Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?		10	
Total Points		100	

Comments: