

# A biography of **Isaac Asimov**

Unit2 Using language

Reading and Writing



Isaac Asimov

1920.1.2 — 1992.4.6

A Russian-born American author and professor of biochemistry, a highly successful and exceptionally prolific writer best known for his works of science fiction and for his popular science books.



Know him  
in one  
minute

# Content

**01** Asimov's biography

**02** Tips of summarizing a bio.

**03** Summary writing practice

# 1

# PART ONE

# Asimov's biography

1.

# Fast-reading

Which paragraph..|

search

- Which paragraph tells you when and where Asimov was **born and died**? **P2**
- Which paragraph tells you about **his education**? **P3**
- Which paragraph tells you about **awards** he received? **P5**

## 2. Read for information

Complete the timeline in Exercise 1:  
(get ready for the summary writing)

### Date Event

1920 born in Russia.

1922 Sister born.

1923 Moved with family to New York

Parents bought a candy store.

1929 Started working in a candy store

Mother had her third child.

1931 Started to take himself seriously as a writer.

1939 Began having stories published in science fiction magazines.

Date	Event
<u>1941</u>	Gained Master's degree in chemistry.
1942	Finished working in the candy store. <u>Got married</u> .
1942-1945	<u>Worked as junior chemist,</u> <u>Philadelphia Navy Yard</u> .
<u>1948</u>	Got PhD in chemistry.
<u>1949</u>	Became a biochemistry teacher, Boston University School of Medicine.
1950	Published his first novel. <u>Published "I, Robot"</u> . Developed three laws for robots.

Date	Event
1951-1953	Published “The Foundation Trilogy” and won an award for it.
<u>1953</u>	Published first science book
<u>1958</u>	Became a full-time writer.
1973	Divorced his first wife. <u>Married for a second time</u> .
<u>1983</u>	Had a blood transfusion. Became infected with HIV.
1992	<u>Died in New York</u> .



### 3. Comprehension

**1.. What was Asimov best known for?**

A. His mystery stories.

**B.** His science fiction stories.

C. His science and history books.

D. His books about the Bible and about Shakespeare.

**2. Why could Isaac Asimov become a writer ?**

A. A friend of his made him a writer

B. His parents wanted him to be a writer

**C.** He had the talent for writing

D. He had so many experiences in his life .

### 3. Comprehension

**3. What might happen in a world where there were robots if Asimov's three laws didn't exist?**



- Maybe robots will harm or injure human beings.
- Maybe robots will disobey human beings.
- In order to protect their own existence, robots may injure human beings.



2025年

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PART  
TWO

**Tips of summarizing a  
biography.**

# 1. About a biography

## \*What is a biography?

A biography of someone is an account of their life, written by someone else.

## \*What is included in a biography?

- Date and place of birth (and death, ☒ applicable)
- Education ☒
- Marriage ☒
- Work experience ☒
- Major achievements ☒

His works

## \*How to summarize a biography?

Knowing what points the author discussed will help you determine what information is most important.

Asimov's  
writing  
career

Choose  
the focus

# Get ready for summary

## Tip1

Collect necessary information

### Date Event

1920 born in **Russia**.

1922 sister born.

1923 moved with family to **New York**.

parents bought a candy store.

1929 started working in a candy store

Mother had her third child.

1931 started to take himself seriously as a writer.

1939 began having stories published in science fiction magazines.

*Pay attention to the change of living places.*

eg: His family **moved** to the United States and **settled** in New York.

Tip2

*Introduce his  
educational and  
occupational  
history .*

Date	Event
<u>1941</u>	gained Master's degree in chemistry.
1942	finished working in the candy store. got married .
1942-1945	worked as junior chemist, Philadelphia Navy Yard .
<u>1948</u>	got PhD in chemistry.
<u>1949</u>	became a biochemistry teacher, I University School of Medicine.
1950	published his first novel. published "I, Robot" . Develop for robots.

eg:He **gained** a master's  
degree in chemistry and  
later his PhD.

He **became** a  
biochemistry teacher at...



Tip3

Date	Event
1951-1953	published “The Foundation Trilogy” and won an award for it.
<u>1953</u>	published first science book
<u>1958</u>	became a full-time writer.
1973	divorced his first wife. <u>married for a second time</u> .
<u>1983</u>	had a blood transfusion. Became infected with HIV.
1992	<u>died in New York</u> .

*End with his marriage & death in short*

eg: He **had** 2 marriages and 2 children.  
He **died** in New York in 1992.

## Get ready for summary

Asimov's  
writing  
career

- ◆ 1939 began having stories published in science fiction magazines
- ◆ 1950 published his first novel.
- ◆ 1951-1953 published “The Foundation Trilogy” and **won an award** for it.
- ◆ 1953 published first science book
- ◆ 1958 became a full-time writer.

**Use your own sentences to organize the information.**

Original  
comment  
of the  
author

- ◆ Some of his ideas about robots later **influenced** other writers and even scientists researching into artificial intelligence.

Choose  
the focus

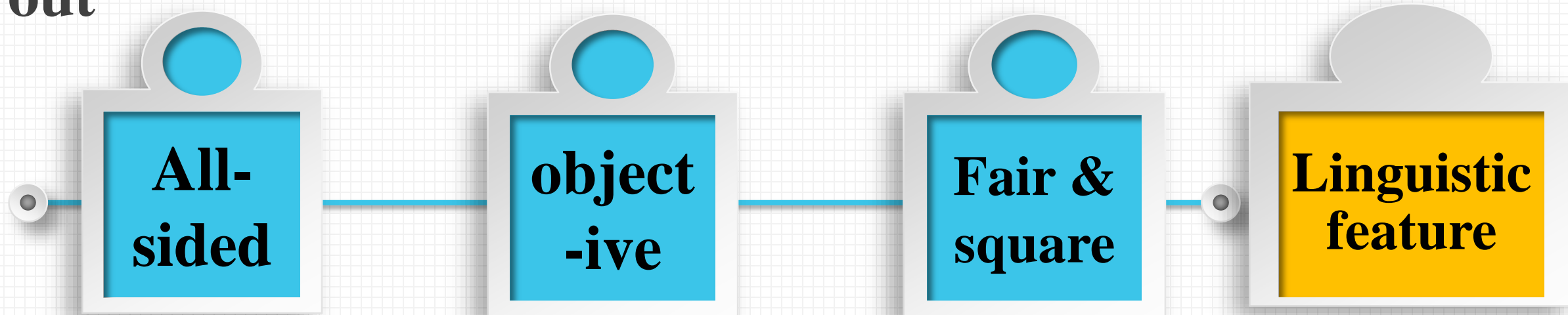


# PART THREE

# Summary writing practice

## Prepare for writing

- \* Use the tense of past**
- \* Write it in the order of time**
- \* Add some transitional words/ expression if necessary**
- \* Check your summary if the major points are left out**



## Write a summary

*Write a short summary of **Asimov's life** in 150-200 words. Follow the directions on Page 18.*

**All-  
sided**

**object  
-ive**

**Fair &  
square**

## Sample summary

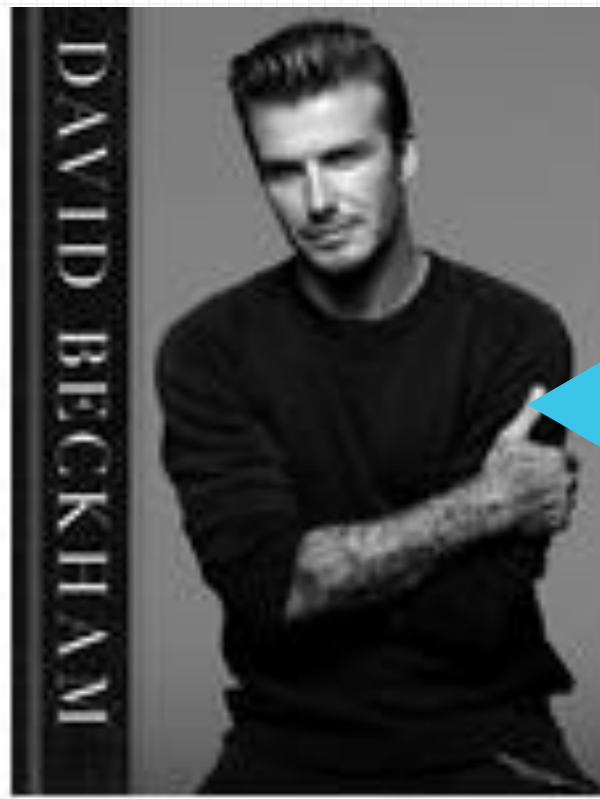
△ **Isaac Asimov was a Russian-born American writer.** His family **immigrated to** the United States when he was three years old and **settled in** New York. He **gained** a master's degree in chemistry and later got his PhD. **After** he graduated, he became a biochemistry teacher at Boston University.

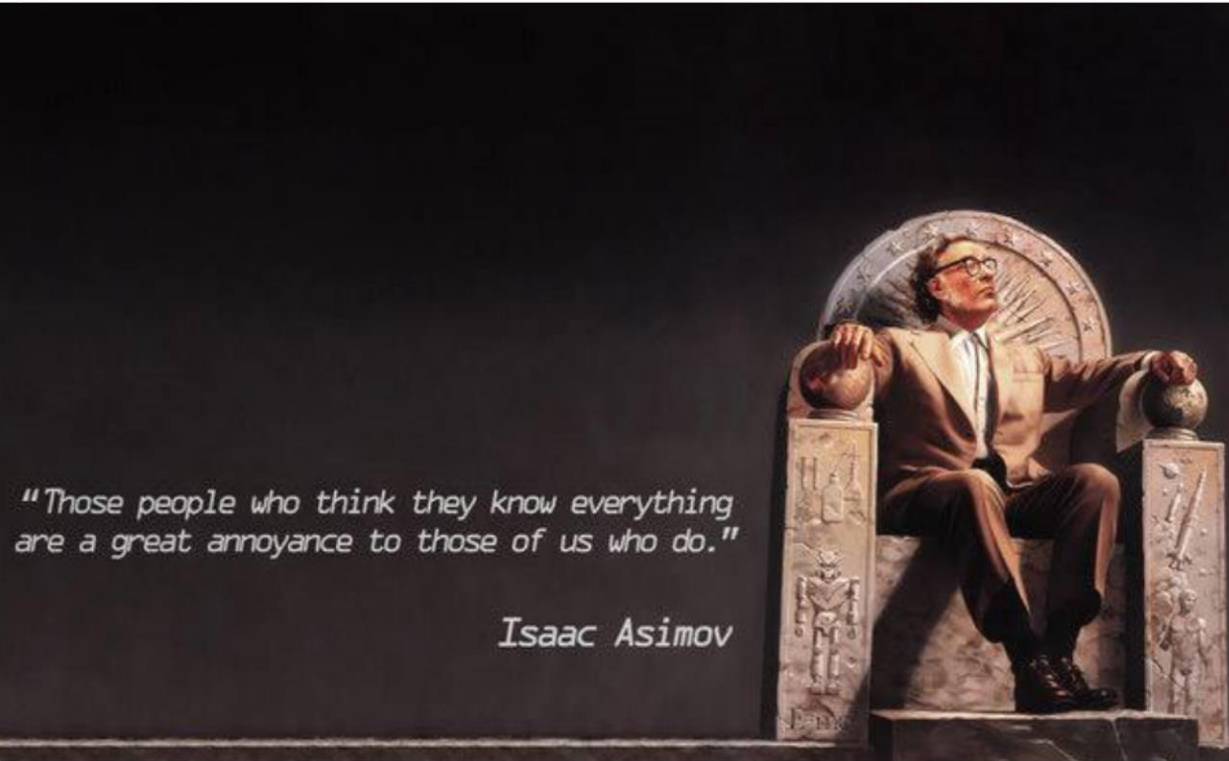
△ **He was talented in writing.** When he realized it, he gave up teaching and became a professional writer. In 1939, he had storied published his first novel. He was famous for his fiction stories and received many awards. The Foundation trilogy and *I, Robot* **are very popular with** the young and adults. His works **exercised great influence** over other writers.

△ Asimov had two marriages and two children. He **died of** AIDS in New York in 1992.

- *Begin by giving the assessment*
- *Write according to the timeline*
- *Focus on his writing career and his achievement*
- *Comment objectively*
- *End with his marriage & death*

recommended reading





THANKS