

The reason why young people should read biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, and diaries is because they provide the most valuable lessons in life. People who write their autobiographies usually have an interesting story to tell about the trials and tribulations of their own lives. There are many successful people in the world, from whom we can learn valuable life lessons. Reading the biographies of successful people like Nelson Mandela, APJ Abdul Kalam, Wangari Mathai, Oprah Winfrey, and many more, will enhance our knowledge about life and living. They are not only successful people, but they are also treasured assets of our society. They have contributed a lot for the society in many ways. Reading their biographies will help us to learn moral values and practice these ethics in our lives. Their courage to achieve something has made them what they are today. Most of them have faced discrimination in their lives from different perspectives, but they have managed to overcome them and walk towards their goals.

One of their main values was that they have respected people and their down-to-earth behaviour is an attestation of their attitude towards all people in the society. They were never proud about their success; instead they were more interested in learning new things and being useful to society. Their values shaped their lives, and it goes to show that we can only be successful in the true sense of the term if we follow the moral path. Success is not always measured in material terms, but also in terms of spiritual impact. We must be satisfied with what we have instead of coveting things.

In the 1670s, Sir Isaac Newton wrote in a letter to his friend Robert Hooke, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." That is exactly what reading biographies can do for you – allow you to see further because of what these people have achieved. Admittedly not every biography is about a 'giant' but most are (and

Studying biographies

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you can certainly pick from that list). Thus, we all need to read biographies written by the role models of society. Not everyone can be like them, but we can try to learn from their lives, instead of wasting our time on mobile phones, television, etc. If all of us inculcate some of their values in our lives, then our society will be a progressive one as little drops of water make up an ocean.

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