There are many elements of your life that you may not know about. Your goal here is to explore your background and discover information about yourself. You will accomplish compiling your autobiography in three ways. Each section will have separate due dates and marks.

**Task 1: Family Tree (Due Friday Week 3)**

Construct a family tree. The assignment is to create a ‘tree’ that includes at least the following people: parents, sisters, brothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, first cousins, nieces, and nephews. You may extend this as far as you like. If you have a stepfamily, you may include them if you wish. If your family is extremely large, you may want to choose just one side of your family to represent. If you are adopted, you may use your adoptive family and/or your natural family if you are in contact with them. Don’t worry if you don’t know about some branches of your family or can’t find out anything; this isn’t meant to be stressful or intrude into family information. First names would also be fine if you prefer.

Your tree should be your creation. Part of your grade will be creativity. Various ideas include: (1) Using poster board and gluing pictures onto the tree and writing the names underneath, (2) If you have computer access, cut and paste an image of a tree and add the names of relatives then print, (3) Take an actual branch from a tree that has lots of other branches extending from it and hang the names from string attached to the branches. Please be original in your work and HAVE FUN with this!!!

**Task 2: “Show & Tell: My Treasure” (Due on Friday Week 5)**

Bring in a favourite childhood toy, book, stuffed animal, home video, your first tooth, a lock of hair from your first haircut, or anything else you treasure. Tell us how you got this item, why it’s special, who else from your family is part of this memory for you, and how it made you feel when you were young. (*I will draw names out of a ‘hat’ for the Show and Tell order.*)
Task 3: The Interview (Due on Friday Week 7)

Find a member of your family that has known you since birth. Interview that person, asking questions about how you grew up and what you were like as an infant/toddler/child. I will provide some guideline questions which you may use if you wish. You may put this interview in any format you choose. You may do it in dialogue form, recorded memo or videoclip, or story form. You may include your own commentary on the stories you hear such as, "I didn’t know that I used to suck my big toe before I started walking. I can’t believe I did that!"

This interview may be typed and printed, neatly hand written, or presented as an iMovie or other electronic format, AS LONG AS I CAN ACCESS IT EASILY!

Interview guidelines

In your final written or recorded piece, you must include your name and the name of the person whom you are interviewing. Also, state the relationship or connection you have with this person.

You may format this part of the project any way you want but if you need some direction then I suggest using the dialogue format: You ask the questions and the interviewee answers them.

This must be written with complete sentences and detailed thoughts, or recorded with as much thoughtful content as you can think of (not just basic yes/no questions!).

I am giving you basic questions to get started and to have some way of organizing your thoughts, but I expect you to go beyond the guidelines and dig into your past. You could possibly record the interview and then go back and write it up as a transcript later, with help from your family member or teacher.

1. How old was I when you first saw me?
2. Do you remember what I was wearing?
3. How did I look to you? Give me a detailed description.
4. How did I act?
5. What features stood out for you as far as looking like a certain family member? (For example, did I have my dad’s eyes?)
6. Do you remember a time when I was in trouble? What happened?
7. Did I ever do anything to make you laugh out loud? What was it?
8. Do you remember any milestones that I may have had around you? First steps, haircut, lost tooth, etc.
9. Do you have any pictures of me that are your favourite? What memory does this particular picture evoke?
10. When I was learning how to talk, did I ever have any cute sayings or mispronunciations? (For example, instead of saying spaghetti, I’d say “I want some skettey”)

Try to have a lengthy conversation with your interviewee and get as much detail as possible. Try to go beyond the guideline questions I give you!

Don’t forget to include your comments on events or stories that you had forgotten about or didn’t know about.

Enjoy this time with your family member!
“Book in a Box”: Other people’s lives are relevant to me

Task 4: Creative response to an autobiography or biography of a Christian person (Due Friday Week 9)

1. Choose the right book:

Choose a non-fiction (true) book within or below your Accelerated Reader level which is written by, or about, a Christian person (living or deceased). Read it, complete the AR quiz if there is one, then do the assignment. Try to keep the book until AFTER your presentation!

2. The Outside:

Choose any container for your book project. You may choose any container that suits the theme/s of your book (manila envelope, paper bag, briefcase, plastic bag, plastic or metal can with a cover, treasure box, rocket, deep sea diver’s mask, or any other container that you can imagine. Be creative!) Decorate the container with details appropriate to the book. We should learn something about the book by examining the outside. Be sure your name and title of the book are labelled. (10 marks)

3. The Inside:

The inside of the container should include the following materials and activities related to the book:

a. Questions - Write 10 questions that could be answered by reading the book that you have chosen to read for this assignment. 5 of the questions should be easy with answers that are obvious simply by reading the book. 5 of the questions should be harder with answers that require more thinking and analysis. On the next page, answer the questions yourself! (10 marks)

b. Objects – Find five objects that connect with the book in a meaningful way. (In other words, you should be able to talk about the links for a few minutes each.) (10 marks)

c. Short review – Give your own ‘star rating’ for the book with reasons for your opinion. (10 marks)

4. Presentation:

You will present your ‘Book in a Box’ project to the class. You will explain the following: why you chose the container, decorated it as you did, and why you chose the five items and how they link with or represent elements of the novel.

You will then give your mark out of ten and reasons.

The teacher will then look at the questions you have devised and select ONE to discuss further with you, to make sure that you were really thinking when you wrote those questions and answers! (10 marks)

Presentation:

Voice strong and clear
Eye contact with the audience
Presentation poise: appropriate gestures, intonation and volume to emphasise key points

TOTAL: _____/50