

# Reading About People



A **biography** is a story about someone's life.

Think about your life. Write the details.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Country you were born: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite school subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite things to do: \_\_\_\_\_

People in your family: \_\_\_\_\_

What do you want to do when you grow up: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reading**

Read the next two stories about special people. As you read, take notes on information you learned about each person in the organizer. Write 2 more details for each person.

Farah Ahmedi	Joseph Lekuton
Born in Afghanistan	Born in Kenya



# Farah Ahmedi

by Libby Lewis

Farah Ahmedi was born in Afghanistan. Although her country was at war, she had a happy life with her father, mother, brothers, and sisters.

But when Farah was seven years old, something terrible happened. As she crossed a field, she stepped on a **land mine**, and it exploded. Farah survived, but she lost her left leg. She had to get a **prosthetic** leg to help her walk.

Then, two years later, a bomb hit her house. It killed her father and sisters.

A few months later, her brothers left home and were never heard from again.

Farah and her mother were alone.

At this time, the laws in Afghanistan said women could not go anywhere in public without a male relative. Farah and her mother could not go to work, school, or even the store.

Farah and her mother decided they had to leave their country in order to be free.

They crossed into Pakistan by walking over the mountains. The path was steep, and it was a risk with Farah's prosthetic leg. But she did not let it slow her down.

Farah and her mother made it safely to Pakistan. After many more hardships, they came to the United States.

Today, Farah and her mother live in Illinois. She works with an international group that clears **minefields** around the world. She also runs a foundation to help other **amputees**.

“I lost my leg, I lost my family, I am out from my country, but I never gave up,” Farah says. “And I will keep going.”

### In Other Words

- bomb hiding in the ground



- **prosthetic**- fake body part like an arm or leg



- **minefields** areas with bombs
- **male relative**- someone in your family that is a boy or man
- **amputees**-



## From Kenya to America and Back Again

The family of Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton, who was born in northern Kenya, is part of a sub-group of the **Maasai**, called the Ariaal.

Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton was fourteen when he ran away from a lion his people were trying to kill. They thought he was afraid. He wanted to prove to his tribe that he was a brave warrior. As he grew up, Lekuton did prove himself in many ways.

Lekuton's soccer skills earned him a **scholarship** to an excellent high school in Kenya. Lekuton did so well in high school that he earned a full scholarship to an American college.

After graduating from college, Lekuton became a social studies teacher in Virginia. He strived to teach his students the **benefits** of both tribal life and a western education. He linked Kenyan and American cultures by organizing school trips to Kenya. "Cultures can learn so much from each other," he said. "We may be divided by bodies of water and masses of mountains but as human beings we all identify with the same fundamental things."

Lekuton continued to help Kenya. His work helped provide educational opportunities and clean water to villages there. For his service to the country, Lekuton became the youngest recipient of Kenya's Order of the Grand Warrior in June of 2001.



### In Other Words

**Maasai-** a tribe, group of people, living in parts of Africa such as Kenya and Tanzania

**scholarship-** money someone receives to go to a college or university

**benefit-** something good or good for you

## Vocabulary

Choose 3 new words from *Farah Ahmedi* and *From Kenya to America and Back Again*. Use a dictionary or computer.

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language



## Grammar

### Practice Using Subject Pronouns

#### ► Grammar: Pronouns

When you talk about other people or things, use the correct pronoun.



For a girl or a woman, use **she**.

**She** is a student.



For a thing, use **it**.

**It** is a present.



For a boy or a man, use **he**.

**He** is a student, too.



Use **they** to talk about more than one person or thing.

**They** are friends.

Complete each sentence. Add the correct pronoun.



1. Josef and Mikka sit together.

They are friends.

2. Mikka is 13 years old today.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a teenager now.



3. Josef has a present for Mikka.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a good friend.

4. Mikka likes surprises.

\_\_\_\_\_ takes the present.



5. The present makes Mikka smile.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a CD by her favorite band.

6. The friends laugh.

\_\_\_\_\_ are happy.

- Use **I** when you talk about yourself.
- Use **you** to talk to one or more persons.
- Use **we** to talk about another person and yourself.
- Use **he, she, it,** and **they** to talk about other people or things.

## Practice

### A. Say each sentence with the correct subject pronoun.

1. Volcanoes and earthquakes are natural forces. (~~It~~ / **They**) cause destruction.
2. A hurricane brings wind and rain. (**It** / **He**) is a dangerous storm.
3. Mom tells me about hurricanes. (**She** / **They**) says each hurricane has an “eye.”
4. “(**I** / **You**) are lucky, Jamie,” Mom says. “There are not many hurricanes here.”

## More Practice

5. \_\_\_\_ am studying volcanoes in school.
6. My science teacher is Mr. Lin. \_\_\_\_ makes the subject exciting.
7. My sister helped me make a model of a volcano. \_\_\_\_ is a good artist.
8. Here is the model. \_\_\_\_ took a long time to make!
9. Mr. Lin asked me, “Do \_\_\_\_ want to display your model at the science fair?”
10. My mother visited Pompeii. \_\_\_\_ liked it very much.
11. Pompeii is an ancient city. \_\_\_\_ was destroyed by a volcano.
12. Luis is writing a report about Pompeii. \_\_\_\_ knows a lot about it.

Reread **Farah Ahmedi** and **From Kenya to America and Back Again**. Look for pronouns. Write 2 sentences from each text on the line and circle the Subject Pronoun.

Example: Although her country was at war she had a happy life with her father, mother, brothers, and sisters.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Practice Reading and Speaking

Practice reading your texts, sentences, and vocabulary. Read them to yourself first. Then read them to a parent or sibling. Check each when you are done.

	✓ To myself	✓ To someone else
I can read pronoun sentences from the readings		
I can read pronoun practice sentences		
I can read <i>Farah Ahmedi</i>		
I can read <i>From Kenya to America and Back Again</i>		
I can read my vocabulary words		
I can read my paragraph about me		