

# A beautiful life

**LINKS TO:**

Stage 3 Module 10

 Learning Object 3: *What are you going to be?*
**Exercise 1**

- 1.1 What are the main ideas in the text? Summarise, in English, the main ideas in each paragraph of the text.**

Answers:

**Paragraph 1**

As a young girl, the author dreamed of travelling.

**Paragraph 2**

The author grew up in Kashmir after 1947. There was often conflict between Pakistan and India in Kashmir at the time.

**Paragraph 3**

The author's mother cooked some elaborate meals, and taught her daughter to cook.

**Paragraph 4**

The author dreamed of being a chef in an elegant restaurant.

**Paragraph 5**

The author also dreamed of having a large, beautiful home with silk pillows, flowers, and a garden filled with flowers and herbs. She dreamed of having children who would not be involved in battles, but would be free to pursue their own dreams.

**Paragraph 6**

The author dreamed of driving to work in a car, instead of travelling by bicycle.

**Paragraph 7**

Finally, the author dreamed of bringing her mother to her home by the ocean and sharing with her all the things she has achieved.

- 1.2 Were there particular words or phrases you found difficult to understand? What strategies did you use to understand these words or phrases, or to understand the text as a whole, despite not being sure what they meant?**

Sample answer:

There are several strategies I used to understand words or phrases that were difficult. First of all, for simple words or phrases without affixes, such as *peluru*, *meriam*, *kelontang* and *gelegak*, I consulted the dictionary. I tried to understand them from the context, but if they were simple words or phrases, they were easy enough to find in the dictionary. For words like *terjajah*, I had to determine the base word before looking it up. I consulted the grammar notes provided in *New Land, New Language* to confirm that the word has the prefix *ter-* and from that I worked out that the base word would be *jajah*.

- 1.3 Where did the author of this biography grow up?**

Answer:

The author grew up in Kashmir, which is located on the border between India and Pakistan. The city she lived in was below the Siachen Glacier.

- 1.4 What professional dreams did the author have when she was young?**

Answer:

The author dreamed of being a chef.

- 1.5 What personal aspirations did the author have when she was young?**

Answer:

The author's personal dreams were more detailed: she dreamed of travelling and working overseas, living

somewhere where there was no conflict and where her children could be well educated, owning and driving a car, and living in a beautiful home.

## Exercise 2

Sample answers:

### 2.1 Think about what you know about Indonesian history. How much of what you know is based on people's memories? What other sources of information, or evidence, do you think historians could use to construct a picture of the past in Indonesia?

Most of what I know about Indonesian history I learnt from reading textbooks and watching documentaries (secondary sources). Sometimes the documentaries I have watched have included footage of people talking about their experiences. Also, some of the books I have read have included quotations from significant people's memoirs. That is, they have drawn on primary sources.

Some other primary sources of information that historians could use to put together a history would be documents and records from the time, such as film, photographs, letters, diaries, and official records from organisations such as government departments, the military, schools and other public and private institutions.

They could also draw on a range of secondary sources, particularly work that has been done by other historians.

### 2.2 Write one or two short paragraphs, in Indonesian, in which the author reflects on which of her childhood dreams she has achieved.

Ketika masih kecil aku selalu bermimpi untuk meninggalkan Kashmir. Waktu itu aku merasa bahwa kehidupan di Kashmir hanya menawarkan sedikit saja pada seorang perempuan yang mempunyai impian besar. Dan akhirnya aku memang pergi, tapi makin jauh aku berkelana, makin aku bermimpi untuk kembali membawa semua yang telah aku pelajari mengenai makanan dan kehidupan ke negeri yang aku cintai itu.

Aku telah menjalani kehidupan yang kaya dan memuaskan di sini, dan telah melakukan semua yang bisa kulakukan untuk memperkaya kehidupan orang lain. Aku telah membesarkan dua anak perempuan yang cantik, yang merasa kerasan di Kashmir seperti mereka merasa kerasan di rumah mereka di India dan Australia. Aku memiliki sebuah rumah yang indah, tapi rumah itu sangat berbeda dengan apa yang pernah kubayangkan dulu. Tidak ada bantal-bantal sutera di sana, tidak ada pemandangan ke laut. Kalau aku membuka jendela kamar tidurku, yang kulihat adalah pegunungan yang sudah akrab kukenal. Aku melihat wajah-wajah yang tidak asing, jalan-jalan yang sudah kukenal baik, dan mengerti bahwa aku berada di tempat di mana aku seharusnya berada.