

'She believed in every one of us': ex-pupils on their inspirational teachers

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes how different people, including the singer Adele, were inspired somehow by their teachers.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is for students to focus on successful female singers. In the activity, students are asked to match the singers with their nationalities. You could also ask them to name famous female singers from their country or any other well-known singers they like.

Key:

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 4. e |
| 2. f | 5. b |
| 3. a | 6. c |

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that *go viral* is a collocation and is used when a photo, video, or message is very popular on the internet. The adjective *viral* is also used in a medical context and collocates with illness, infection and disease. The phrasal verb *pass away* is a euphemism for *die* and is often used to avoid upsetting someone. *Spot on* is very common in British English and can be used as a response when someone gives an answer that is completely accurate.

Key:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. viral | 6. transition |
| 2. impact | 7. reassurance |
| 3. lasting | 8. inspire |
| 4. pass away | 9. insist |
| 5. anxiety | 10. spot on |

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways. In the UK, pupils attend primary school from the age of four until the age of 11.

Key:

1. True
2. True
3. False. He was anxious about his sexuality.
4. True
5. False. She met her when she was 13.
6. False. She was 16.
7. False. She was born in the UK.
8. True
9. True
10. False. He encouraged her to read as much as she could.

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Ask students to refer back to the text to check their answers. Note that there is more than one possible answer to #3, but the key below is the only possible solution where all the prepositions are used.

Key:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. about | 5. in |
| 2. of | 6. with |
| 3. throughout | 7. through |
| 4. on | 8. in |

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

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6. In your own words

- a. Students can find this information if they enter 'Adele and her teacher' into a web browser. There are numerous articles about this concert and what happened when Ms McDonald came on stage.