

**English in Mind Second edition**

Level 4 Unit 11

**Worksheet****Music's boy wonder: Composer, conductor, singer ... and he's only fifteen****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Lead-in**

- 1** Listen to some music and write down 8-10 words to describe the images that come into your head.
- 2** With another student write down all the 'ingredients' that you think are needed to make a great composer.

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**Reading comprehension (1): reading for gist**

- 3** Read the whole article and make a note of all the ingredients mentioned in the text that make a great composer. Compare the list with the class list. Are there any extra ones?

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**Reading comprehension (2): true or false?**

- 4** Read paragraphs 7 to 13. Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Compare your answers in pairs and give evidence from the text.

- 1** Teachers are more important than parents for developing child prodigies. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2** Being a child prodigy can be dangerous. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3** Prior's parents knew that the programme would be called 'Pushy parents'. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4** According to the writer of the article, it is difficult for parents to understand how pushy they should be with their child prodigies. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5** Mozart's parents didn't help him to develop his talent. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6** The writer of the article is not particularly impressed by Prior's singing talents. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Worksheet

## Music's boy wonder: Composer, conductor, singer ... and he's only fifteen

THE  INDEPENDENT

## Reading comprehension (3): reading for detail 5

5 Who is it? Read from paragraph 14 to the end of the article and answer the following questions:

Who ...

- 1 travelled all over Europe when he was very young? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 was a schizophrenic? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 studies at home? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 probably gave his last concert when he was over 100? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 has had a film made about him? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 had a father who wanted him to make more money? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 killed himself? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 lied about their son's age? \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary: word stress

6 Complete the chart with the following words according to the word stress:

ballet conductor symphonies requiem composer opera baton

| oOo<br>Ambition | Oo<br>Table | Ooo<br>musical |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
|                 |             |                |
|                 |             |                |
|                 |             |                |

## Discussion

7 Think of arguments in favour or against the following statement with a partner:

*Prodigies should be allowed a normal childhood.*

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**Worksheet****Music's boy wonder: Composer, conductor, singer ... and he's only fifteen****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Writing: preparation**

- 8 Preparation 1.** Look at the following text (a-d), which offers an answer to the question 'Do you think teenage pop stars earn too much money?' When you have read it carefully, put the paragraphs into the correct order:
- a** The world of music is indeed a glamorous place to be and teenage pop stars must love all the adoration, all the parties. After all, they have earned their money through their talent and hard work. Surely they deserve to enjoy their new life style.
  - b** The music industry creates headlines on a daily basis and is full of stories of teenagers who have seemingly risen to fame overnight. It all sounds so perfect : fame, fortune and millions of fans. But is it really a dream come true? And what does the future hold for these stars of the moment?
  - c** For all the reasons outlined above I feel that teenage pop stars do earn too much money. They are, for the most part, too young to lead a balanced life and to resist all the temptations that their riches lead them into.
  - d** On the other hand the world of music is also a dangerous place for young people. In recent decades there have been many cases of young pop stars who have had serious problems with alcohol and drug abuse. Moreover, when you earn so much money at such a young age it must be difficult to remain grounded; to take sensible decisions.
- 9 Preparation 2.** Now with a partner decide what purpose each paragraph has and why the writer has decided to order the paragraphs like this.
- 10 Preparation 3.** Now look at the composition again and underline all the examples you can find of cohesive devices. The text also uses rhetorical questions. Look back at the article and quickly find them. What is the function of these questions?

**Writing: composition**

- 11 Write a composition on the following question:**

*Do you think prodigies should be allowed a normal childhood?*

**In your composition you should:**

- follow the layout from writing preparation 1
- include cohesive devices and rhetorical questions

**Write between 200 and 225 words.**

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