

WHAT'S NEW?

Communication Objectives:	Students will be able to: - use idiomatic expressions and softening expressions. - use vocabulary, phrases and idioms related to role models.		
Educational Objectives:	Students will address the relationship of positive and negative role models to human development.		
Connected Topics:	- Teenage role models - Parents as role models - Eminem and music role models - Superheroes	- Fashion industry and role models - Literary role models - Male and female role models - Evolving role models	
Grammar:	Joining clauses		
Key Vocabulary:	advocate air play bigot conglomeration conjure up contemporary deep down embrace feat	foul-mouthed gutter-dwelling icon idolise in your face invincible mentor non-compromising outrage	paralysis pressure wound quick fire slut spark stereotype surpass up in arms vicious

The BIG question: DO WE NEED SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO?**VIEWPOINT**

Fact: The UK teenage girls' magazine, *Sugar*, holds an annual readers' poll of the top 100 inspirational women. The information is in the form of a graphic based on this poll of young women from 13 to 18.

Source:

www.sugarmagazine.co.uk

EQ: *Do you think these are positive role models for girls? Why / Why not? What kinds of lessons could these women teach girls? How popular are these women in your country?*

Quote: Albert Einstein (1879–1955) German physicist, who later became a US citizen. Famous for developing his theory of relativity, he won the 1921 Nobel Prize for Physics. Aware of how his theory had laid the groundwork for the later development of the nuclear age and nuclear weapons, he became an advocate of nuclear disarmament after World War II.

Photos: The photos show:

- Kofi Annan (from Ghana), the Secretary-General of the United Nations up to December 2006. He has worked in a number of different areas at the UN, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- Christina Aguilera (from the USA), best-selling pop star who went topless on the cover of one of her albums. She is involved in a YouthAids.org campaign to raise awareness and funds to help protect young people from HIV / Aids.
- Tanni Grey-Thomson, Britain's best-known wheelchair athlete, who has won gold medals at the Paralympics and broken world records at distances ranging from 100 m to the marathon.

EQ: *Do you think Albert Einstein / Kofi Annan / Christina Aguilera / Tanni Grey-Thomson is a good role model? Who would each of them appeal to as a role model?*

1 WORD POWER

A gets students to discuss common adjectives that could be attributed to role models. You can suggest students associate each adjective with a particular person. It is unlikely they will find someone to fit all the adjectives, so there will be room for discussion.

B 1 gets students to practise using the softening expressions from **Language Bank 14**.

1 WORD POWER B1

Sample answers

I'm sorry. It's just that I don't see Britney Spears as a good role model. / **It's quite difficult, but** I think Christina Aguilera can be a positive role model. / **If I could just mention one thing,** I think Kofi Annan is a good role model despite the Oil for Food scandal. / **Actually, I had thought that / I often wonder if maybe** Tanni Grey-Thomson wouldn't be a role model if you don't like sport.

ARTICLES

Eminem – Is He A Poet Or Bigot?

This article discusses the influence of Eminem and other popstars on young people. The article was written by a youth organisation, Children's Express, which writes for the *Belfast Telegraph*. Eminem (real name Marshall Bruce Mathers III) is a controversial figure in hip hop and the music industry in general. Beyond the fact that he is one of the few successful white rappers accepted by the black community, his Marshall Mathers LP was attacked for containing misogynistic and homophobic lyrics. To counter these claims, he famously appeared on stage with Elton John at the Grammy Awards to perform *Stan*.

EQ: *What do you think of Eminem? Is his music misogynistic, homophobic or violent? Why is hip hop so popular outside the African-American community where it originated? How popular are rap and hip hop artists in your country?*

Reeve Was Real-Life 'Superman'

This article is a tribute discussing the life and death of Christopher Reeve. After his accident, he did not give up hope for a cure, and became an ardent advocate for people with spinal cord injuries and the possibility that repairing spinal cord injuries

would be possible in the future. Reeve was also an outspoken defender of stem cell research and critic of the US government anti-stem cell research position. While he will stay in people's minds as Superman, he will probably be remembered more for his dedicated work after his injury.

EQ: *What made Reeves a role model? Are disabled people generally seen as role models? Why / Why not?*

2 READING

A is a gap completion activity that will help students with Part 2 of the Reading section of the CAE exam.

2 READING A

Answers

A 1 D 2 C 3 E 4 B

B 1 requires students to contrast opinions of different people.

2 READING B

Answers

1 Drew and Lisa don't think pop stars are not good role models for young people, Mairead thinks Eminem is a good role model because he tells / says it how it is.

2 (Sample answer) The irony is that he played Superman, an invincible superhero, but he was not invincible. In real life, he could be injured like anyone else. / He played a superhuman man of steel but in real life, when he was paralysed in an accident, he showed more courage than an imaginary character.

B 2 The irony is that he played Superman, an invincible superhero, but he was not invincible. In real life, he could be injured like anyone else.

C 1 This question relates to a type of question in the Trinity exam which requires students to speculate and conclude on the unstated feelings of people. You may want to extend the discussion by asking: *If you were a pop star, would you care what others thought of you? Do you think a celebrity's life belongs to them or the media?*

C 2 This question requires students to speculate on the differences between Eminem and Christopher Reeve. Ask students to look at the types of careers both men have had, how their actions are presented in the media and the causes they support.

EQ: Which person do you think most young people would prefer as a role model?

3 SPEAK YOUR MIND

This section covers the topics of: personal role models, personal and impersonal role models, messages given by pop stars, popularity of anti-establishment role models, and role models in different groups in society.

A EQ: How does someone choose a role model? Are role models a question of personal taste, popularity or something else? Can you judge someone without knowing them personally?

B EQ: Why are parents and other family members often overlooked as role models? Teenagers often rebel against their parents. Is it possible to idolise and rebel against the same person?

C EQ: Who are your favourite music stars? Do you think young people act on the messages sent by pop stars?

D EQ: Think about different groups in your country, for example, ethnic groups or people with disabilities. Who are some role models for them? How important is it to have a positive role model in a group?

4 LISTEN

DVD

While the popularity of comic books has changed over the years, many comic book characters are popular now because of Hollywood films based on comic books. In films, the special abilities of superheroes are brought to life using computer-generated images (CGI). Superheroes in films include: Superman, Batman, the X-Men, the Hulk, Spider-Man, and the Fantastic Four.

A Photos: The pictures are of Batman and Lara Croft, played by Angelina Jolie, from the popular Tomb Raider video games and movies.

B is a CAE-type listening activity.

4 LISTEN B, C, D

Answers

B Spider-man: complex hero and very human, lots of problems but faces them, an accidental hero; Superman: an early blueprint for superheroes, good guy, helps people; Wonder Woman: independent.

C (Sample answer) Comic book genre dominated by male characters, but some strong female characters such as Wonder Woman.

D 1 1938–1954; 2 His grandfather drew cartoons for comic books / comic book cartoonist; 3 The good guys against the bad guys, fighting crime and helping people. 4 Wonder Woman – independent, Batgirl – helper, extension of a male character like Batman.

5 TEAMWORK

This activity is designed to get students to think how parents concerned about their child's well-being might view teenage role models. There is a deeper meaning to this activity in that many parents' first instinct is often to restrict children's and teenagers' access to negative influences, without consulting the young people themselves. There have been numerous grassroots movements to restrict children and teenagers access to different things. For instance, the Parents Music Research Center in the USA pushed for a film-style rating system on music that led to the 'Parental Advisory: Explicit Content' sticker on many CDs.

Source:

Raising PG kids in an X-Rated Society, Tipper Gore
www.concernedpta.com.gh/index_old.html,
www.ncac.org

EQ: Should teenagers' access to negative role models be restricted? How do you think your parents would rate your role models?

6 CONTROVERSY

The fashion industry has been criticised about the kind of body images that they promote, especially for young women. Some people say the fashion industry is simply pandering to the desires of the majority of women when they choose thin models. Thin models reinforce this ideal body image that the majority of women can only hope for. Recently, larger-size models have appeared more in fashion magazines. *Dolly*, an Australian women's fashion magazine, saw a 13 per cent increase in readership after introducing larger models in their fashion

spreads. Similarly, a popular TV reality show in the US, *America's Next Top Model 3*, also featured a larger-size model as one of the ten finalists.

Sources:

www.cosmopolitan.com, www.adiosbarbie.com

EQ: *Does the fashion industry affect people's idea of body image? What can be done about this? Do you think men are also affected by men's fashion magazines?*

7 PORTFOLIO WRITING

See the Introduction to the Teacher's Guide.

A Sources:

The Art of Mentoring, Sinclair Goodlad
Students as Tutors and Mentors, Mike Pegg
 www.mentoring.org, www.womenswork.org/
 girls/refs/mentor.html

B requires students to write satirically. It would be worth asking students to review Unit 4's first article *Leave the Poor Psychopath Alone* as an example of writing satire.

8 LITERATURE in English (CLIL)

The two authors represent two of the 20th century's more critically acclaimed American authors. They are generally regarded as 'cool', accessible and appealing to younger readers because they discussed topics that represented a break from the normal narrative in American literature.

Maya Angelou tackled racial issues that were still being worked out in 1970s America, following the rise of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. In addition, she was a woman writing about issues that few women were addressing in contemporary literature: rape, murder and bigotry. Even in the face of these adversities, she maintained an overwhelming sense of hope for the future. And while it was a simple act of autobiographical storytelling, she was clearly breaking new ground.

Jack Kerouac wrote about being young in the 1950s. Trapped by a culture that demanded conformity – a family, a house, a car and a regular job, this younger generation wanted more. In *On the Road* Kerouac discusses travelling the open road, bohemian lifestyles, jazz, race relations, drug

use, sexuality and even homosexuality with a compelling, naïve curiosity. Like Angelou, it was a major break from contemporary authors.

Sources:

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
On The Road, Jack Kerouac
 www.mayaangelou.com,
 www.jackkerouac.com/index.php

EQ: *What kinds of books do you like to read? Name books and authors who have influenced you? Do you think literature is cool? Do authors make good role models? Why / Why not?*

9 FURTHER DISCUSSION

This section covers the topics of: gender and role models, friends as role models, careers as a basis for being role models, evolving role models, and role models and stereotypes.

A Try to get students to think about role models in terms of gender.

EQ: *Are there role models that are common to both sexes? What is your reaction if a boy has Britney Spears as a role model and a girl has Arnold Schwarzenegger as a role model?*

B Students should think about specific friends and the positive things that they can draw from them.

EQ: *Do your parents see your friends as positive or negative role models? Who has more influence on you: parents or friends?*

C Ask students to list specific careers, for example, lawyers, businesspeople, nurses, firefighters, criminals.

EQ: *Do some careers make for bad role models?*

D Try to get students to think about the role models they had as children. You can brainstorm these as a class.

EQ: *Do you think the role models you had as a child had much influence on you? Do some role models remain the same throughout your life?*

E Ask students about unusual role models to see how these do or do not fit with stereotypes.

EQ: *What is the most unusual role model you have heard of?*

10 *Your answer:* DO WE NEED SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO?

There is a phrase often attributed to Isaac Newton often quoted: "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." It means that he was only able to explore further by having learned from people who came before him. This is true even with the simplest of acts; we are part of those who surround us. The question here tries to get students to consider the basic need for role models. Is it simply an evolving drive in our natural development? Or is it something we could develop without? In the absence of others as possible role models, would we be who we are today?

WORKBOOK

1 WORD POWER

This activity will get students to practise the softening expressions from **Language Bank 14**.

1 WORD POWER

Sample answers

1 I'm sorry. It's just that I disagree with you about Eminem. – **Well, there's always a first time for everything.** **2 I often wonder if maybe** parents expect celebrities to be unreasonably responsible. – **You'll have your work cut out for you** if you think you can change their minds. **3 It's quite difficult to know for certain, but I** think a teenager's friends are their most important role models. – **It stands to reason.** **4 If I could just mention one thing,** I have always looked up to my father. – **It stands to reason.** **5 I'm sorry. It's just that** we'll only play if she coaches the team. – **Well, don't hold your breath!** **6 If I could just mention one thing.** When I was growing up my hero was Spider-man. – **It stands to reason.** He was my hero too. **7 Actually, I had thought that** most people were shocked with the arrest of the star. – **The bigger they are, the harder they fall.** **8 I often wonder if maybe** she inspired me to become a doctor. – **There's always a first time for everything.**

2 USE OF LANGUAGE: Joining clauses

This activity discusses athletes as role models. The activity is based on an activity type for the CAE and CPE exams.

2 USE OF LANGUAGE

Answers

1 that / which	2 that	3 what
4 who	5 When	6 which / that
7 because / when	8 that	

3 WRITING

A Sources:

Confessions of a Hero-Worshipper, Stephen J. Dubner
www.myhero.com/myhero
www.jerryjazzmusician.com/mainHTML.cfm?page=heroesindex.html

B Sources:

How Not to Write a Screenplay, Denny Martin Flinn
Complete Idiot's Guide to Screenwriting, Skip Press
www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/artweb/playwriting

4 IDIOMS

See the Introduction to the Teacher's Guide.

4 IDIOMS

Answers

1 f 2 e 3 a 4 b 5 d 6 c
1 babes in arms = very young children so not able to do things for themselves **2** to take their cue = to follow the example of **3** to show guts = to show courage, be brave **4** to be in good hands = to be helped by reliable people **5** in someone's good books = in favour with someone **6** to take under someone's wing = to be given someone's protection

- *What would you do if your parents thought your friends were bad role models?*
 - I think my parents would respect my choices. I'm not *a babe in arms* any more.
 - I think it would *take a lot of guts* to follow my parents' wishes.
 - I want to *stay in* my parents' *good books* so I might find some new friends.

- *Do you follow everything your role model does?*
 - I *take* some *cues* from her, but I am my own person. I make my own choices.
 - It *takes* more *guts* to follow your own path than to follow a role model.
 - I think it's important for a role model to *take* you *under their wing*, but this doesn't mean you can't be your own person.
- *How are you as a role model?*
 - My younger brother *takes cues* from what I do, so I have to be careful what I do.
 - I've *taken* a younger student *under my wing*. She's doing better at school since I've been helping her.
 - My friends are *in good hands* when they ask me for advice and help. I'm always there for them.