

LPF Reading Exemplar

Pop Singer: Mo Lewis

Task Description

In this task, students read three texts about a pop singer, Mo Lewis: the first one being a feature article about his music and movie careers, the second one being a review of his latest music release and the third one his tour schedule. They then answered questions related to the three texts in preparation for an oral presentation about their favourite film/TV programme.

Preparation

Before the reading activity, students discussed the following questions that helped them activate their prior knowledge:

- Referring to the layout of the three texts, where do they come from? Why do you think so?
- What is the purpose of each of the three texts?

Learning Outcomes: ATMs 6-7

ATM 6

Understanding and inferring information, ideas, feelings and opinions in a range of texts with some degree of complexity, using and integrating a range of reading strategies as appropriate

ATM 7

Understanding, inferring and interpreting information, ideas, feelings and opinions in a range of texts with some degree of complexity, using and integrating a range of reading strategies as appropriate.

Questions	When students respond to the questions appropriately, they can:
<p>1. Which of these words is closest to the meaning of 'heavy' as used in Text 1 (paragraph 7)? Tick the best option.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A. difficult</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. <i>serious</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C. stupid</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D. violent</p>	<p>ATM 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">work out the literal and implied meaning of 'heavy' by using semantic clues, e.g. linking the literal meaning of 'heavy' (i.e. weighing a lot, large in quantity) to 'important issues', which gives rise to the implied meaning of 'serious', understanding that 'without being' negates the meaning of 'heavy' and the negated meaning is associated with 'romantic comedy', 'entertained' and 'enjoying themselves'

<p>2a) Did Mo expect that this new album would change the world?</p> <p><i>He did not really expect that it would change the world.</i></p> <p>2b) Explain how you know what he really thinks.</p> <p><i>He 'laughed' as he talked about it.</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><i>He said, 'I guess.'</i></p>	<p>ATM 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify Mo's attitudes towards his music, which is clearly signalled in texts, by recognising the light-hearted manner in which he uttered 'It's my attempt to change the world', as evident in the word 'laughed', and the tentativeness that is conveyed by the expression 'I guess'.
<p>3. Find this phrase in Text 1 (paragraph 4): 'I'm for real, not a plastic pop star.' Why did Mo use the word 'plastic'?</p> <p><i>The word 'plastic' expresses fakeness, or a lack of value / contrasts with 'real'.</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><i>A plastic pop star sells because of his/her look.</i></p>	<p>ATM 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work out the meaning of the 'plastic' metaphor by using <ul style="list-style-type: none"> semantic clues, e.g. associating the literal meaning of 'plastic' (i.e. a man-made, rather than natural, substance) with 'pop stars that sells because of his/her look' and contrasting it with 'I'm for real' syntactic clues, e.g. the relative clause 'that sells because of his/her look' provides explanation to the kind of pop star that Mo Lewis is not.

<p>4. Find this phrase in Text 2: ‘Who would have thought it?’</p> <p>a) Why does the writer ask a question?</p> <p><i>Use of a question gives emphasis, or offers little option as to what its answer is.</i></p> <p>b) What do you think is the answer to the question?</p> <p><i>The answer is that few people would have thought it.</i></p> <p>c) Give a reason.</p> <p><i>Because they would have expected Dave Khan to be more successful than his partner.</i></p>	<p>ATM 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• understand the use of a rhetorical question, which is posed without the expectation of a reply, to express the general public’s surprise at the success of the mild-mannered Mo Lewis when the more handsome Dave Khan was generally tipped to be the more successful of the two.
--	--

Text 1

Rock Profile: Pop Singer – Mo Lewis

This week's Rock Profile features Mo Lewis, who was once in the rock group *No More Silence* with his singing partner, Dave Khan. Now, Mo and Dave have gone their separate ways, and Mo has a successful career as a solo singer.

Keith Chung reports.

1	When the rock group <i>No More Silence</i> broke up last year, many people thought that the handsome lead singer, Dave Khan, had the greatest chance of success on his own. Instead it's his partner Maurice 'Mo' Lewis who has won the affection of fans worldwide.
2	I talked to Mo as he relaxed in a luxury hotel room in Shanghai. 'It's my attempt to change the world, I guess,' laughed 23-year-old Mo, talking of the songs on the second music album he has made alone, <i>Stop the Madness</i> . 'I tackle all sorts of topics that everyone needs to know about, from global warming to poverty, religion and politics. So many people don't even know or think about these things.'
3	There are plenty of more conventional rock music subjects covered on the album, however. In <i>Next Stop</i> Mo falls under the spell of a beautiful girl he meets on a train, while <i>Make Me Wait</i> describes his pain as he wonders whether his relationship will last. It seems, therefore, that Mo hasn't entirely left behind the themes that made <i>No More Silence</i> 's early work so successful.
4	When Mo first announced his intention to go solo, after the break-up of <i>No More Silence</i> , everyone thought he would work with a big music production company. Instead, he has decided to start his own company and to produce his records himself. 'I wanted to show the world that I'm for real, not a plastic pop star that sells because of his looks,' he proclaimed. 'I came from the streets, and I did the work, and I want people to understand and respect that. I'm the hardest working person in the world!'
5	Fame is something that Mo has certainly had to work hard for. In the competitive world of rock music, he has struggled to show the world that he has what it takes. 'That's just how it is,' he shrugged. 'I've never tried to be someone that I'm not. I've got where I am because of skill, not because people have spent money on advertising. I'm proud to be different, and to have earned the respect I've got.'

6	Mo won no less than six awards at this year's New Music Awards, taking home Best Newcomer, Best Male Vocalist and Best Album. He plans to ride the wave of his success all the way to Hollywood, where filming of a new movie will begin in the autumn. In <i>Love over Troubled Water</i> , Mo plays the starring role of Sam Mack in a romantic comedy, opposite leading lady Candice Merville.
7	'That movie is going to be so hype to be involved in,' Mo said enthusiastically. 'It's a good way to look at important issues without being too heavy with the audience. People come to the movies to be entertained, but why can't they think about their lives and their world while they're enjoying themselves?'
8	The release of Mo's second album, <i>Stop the Madness</i> , is due this week, so it should be in the shops now. It's produced by Dangerous Records.

Text 2

This week's new releases

Mo Lewis - *Stop the Madness*(Dangerous Records)

Who would have thought it? From the grave of *No More Silence* rises not Dave Khan but mild-mannered Mo Lewis. He's certainly matured since his work on the group's *Cruel and Unusual* album. In his first solo album, Lewis tackled a variety of social issues, as he prowled the dark side of life in the big city. This second album is not the greatest ever made, but Lewis has a wit and a voice that equal most, and at times beat some of the best. Worth buying for the masterful *Make Me Wait* alone, which combines violin with electronic rhythms to great effect.

(Copyrights reserved by **Education Bureau**)