Fatwa 1

Does the person look familiar to you?

What have you heard of him?

Preparatory activity. Here are some words from the lesson. Try to match each one with its meaning

fatwa	holy, sacred things or conceptions
blasphemy	the divine or supernatural disclosure to humans of something relating to human existence
rambunctiousness	a legal opinion or decree handed down by an Islamic religious leader
affront	a person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God
sanctities	great disrespect shown to God or to something holy
revelation	uncontrollable exuberance
prophet	an action or remark that causes outrage or offence

1_A_Read and form adjectives to fill the gaps (use the words in brackets as prompts)

And this week, the moment a _____ (sedation) literary festival was transformed into an _____ (horror) crime scene.

Just as Mr. Rushdie walked on stage, another person ran up on the stage, and started striking him _____ (rapidity) _____ (repetitiveness) blows to the chest and the neck, I think.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The was a _____ (giant) _____ (collective) gasp and we were just in shock.

Salman Rushdie, a world- _____ (fame) author was stabbed _____ (multiplicity) times and remains in hospital. The man who was about to interview him is deeply _____ (shock).

Listen and check _____

B. Drag, drop, read out loud.

and to protect those values

an affront to all of us

all the rambunctiousness

welcome the arts and

Can you imagine, here you are in the United States which for _____ of the political environment today, is a completely free country, and we are on a stage of the institution whose mission is to have discussion, conversation and _____ the humanities _____ , and to have this happened there is _____ .

2. Listen and fill the gaps with prepositions. Find the main verbs in each sentence and explain the usage of its form.

The Host: The novelist Salman Rushdie is now 75. But for the last 33 of those years, he's lived _____ a fatwa that called _____ his death, issued by the supreme leader of Iran ___ the time. Today, he is ___ a ventilator and slowly recovering but still ___ critical condition. He was repeatedly stabbed _____ an onstage discussion last Friday in upstate New York. Iran has denied involvement, but a spokesman ___ its foreign ministry says it doesn't blame anyone ___ the attack _____ Rushdie himself and his supporters.

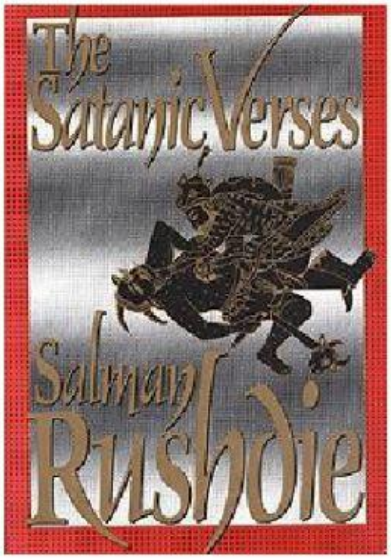
So what exactly did Salman Rushdie write that would provoke an attempt ___ his life more than three decades after he wrote it? Let's bring __ Robin Wright. She's covered Iran ___ decades, and she wrote about this case ___ The New Yorker. Robin, thank you ___ being here.

Robin Wright: Great to be with you.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3.The "book of discord" is called The Satanic Verses and here's Rushdie telling about it in a BBC Radio 4 programme Desert Island Discs back in 1988 _____

Listen to the clip and fill the gaps with verb forms.



The new novel is called The Satanic Verses. And one of the things it's about, to ____ it very simply, is the problem of distinguishing angels from devils.

It _____ its title from the apocryphal incident in the life of the Prophet Muhammad, who said that on one occasion, when he'd been up at the mountain, instead of Archangel Gabriel appearing to him – the normal angel of revelation – the devil had _____ to him in the guise of archangel and had _____ to him the Satanic Verses which he later discovered to be so and they had to be _____ from the Quran when the real angel _____ up.

And it _____ me, you know, if the Prophet had such trouble telling, distinguishing angels from devils, the rest of us don't really have much chance.

The novel _____ out of that incident, and so I thought it would be appropriate to _____ the record, which I actually like very much, by The Rolling Stones called Sympathy for Devil.

4.And here's Rushdie speaking to NPR in 2012 about the controversial parts of the novel _____. What was the author's purpose?

"When a big, new idea comes into the world, it must answer two challenges." What are the challenges?

5. Here is Salman Rushdie reading the excerpt from The Satanic Verses. The snippet was abridged for the show purposes. Listen and mark with "v" all the lines that are ABSENT in the audio _____

The city's streets coiled around him, ___

writhing like serpents, London had grown unstable once again, revealing its true, ___

capricious, tormented nature, its anguish of a city that had lost its sense of itself ___

and wallowed, accordingly, in the impotence of its selfish, angry present of masks and parodies, _

stifled and twisted by the insupportable, unrejected burden of its past, staring into the bleakness of its impoverished future. ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS

He wandered its streets through that night and the next day, and the next night, and on until the light and dark ceased to matter. ___

He no longer seemed to need food or rest, but only to move constantly through that tortured metropolis whose fabric was now utterly transformed, ___

the houses in the rich quarters being built of solidified fear, the government buildings partly of vainglory and partly of scorn, and the residences of the poor of confusion and material dreams. _

When you looked through an angel's eyes you saw essences instead of surfaces, you saw the decay of the soul blistering and bubbling on the skins of people in the street, ___

you saw the generosity of certain spirits resting on their shoulders in the form of birds. ___

Did you like the language?

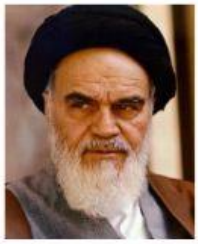
Why do you think the book was considered to be offensive?

6. Listen to the snippet and decide whether the statements are T of F _____

1. The book was considered offensive because it portrayed in some ways an insanity of the Prophet Muhammad. __

2. The Rushdie fatwa was, in many ways, an historic coincidence. __

3. The publication of his book intersected with a severe crisis to the Iranian revolutionary system. __



4. Ayatollah Khomeini was the leader of the Communist Party in Iran. __

5. Khomeini had been exploiting the protests in the wider Islamic world since the very moment of publishing Rushdie book. __

6. In neighboring Pakistan several Muslims were killed in violent clashes with security forces. __

7. When Khomeini intervened, he decreed that not only Rushdie but also his wife and anyone who translated or published his book in any language were condemned to death.

8. It was ultimately a religious action. __

9.It has played out ever since then in the feisty, internal debate within Iran between hard-liners who want to convert the state back to a kind of normal country and not make it a pariah anymore and reformers who are devoted to the original militant ideology of the regime. __

LIVEWORKSHEETS