

1 Young and talented

Reading

Before reading

- 1 Discuss these questions.
 - 1 Which of these activities are you best at: sport, art, music or cooking?
 - 2 Do you know people with special talents? What can they do?
- 2  Read and listen.

Super Kids!

There are young, talented people everywhere. There are five-year-olds who can play the violin. There are ten-year-old opera singers who **perform** in famous concert halls. There are thirteen-year-old gymnasts in the Olympics, and many more children like this all over the world.

What are these **gifted** children like? Let's meet some of them.

Name **Asif Malik** Age **12** Country **India** Talent **painting**



'Nobody in my family is **artistic**, so they were surprised when I started painting seriously. I was only four years old. At first I painted trees and flowers. Now I paint portraits of my family and friends. I enter competitions and I sometimes have exhibitions. I've already sold some of my paintings. I have a website and all my paintings are on it. I'm going to go to an art school in Paris when I'm older.'

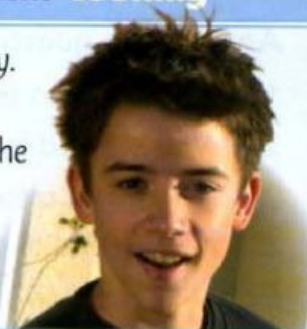
Name **Kati Varga** Age **11** Country **Hungary** Talent **chess**

'My father taught me to play chess when I was five years old. I **took part** in my first competition when I was eight years old. I was so excited when I won a **trophy**! Today, I have more than a hundred trophies and **medals** in my room. Next year, I'm going to take part in a **tournament** in Russia. One day, I'd like to be the best in the world. I know I'm on my way!'



Name Josh Brown **Age** 14 **Country** Britain **Talent** cooking

'I started cooking when my aunt sent me a cookery book on my birthday. I was only ten. At first I made cakes, but now I love making complicated meals for my family. I recently won a **competition** for the Young Chef of the Year. My **prize** is a visit to an expensive London restaurant next week. I'm spending the day there with a famous chef. He's going to teach me some delicious dishes. One day, I'm going to open my own restaurant.'



Name Lee Sang-mi **Age** 10 **Country** South Korea **Talent** piano

'Everyone in my family has got a special skill. I have two older brothers and they are both very **athletic**, but I've never been good at sport. My mother is very **musical**, and plays the piano beautifully. One day I was listening to her and suddenly I knew I wanted to try. I loved it! I started lessons at the music institute when I was six, and soon I was performing and winning competitions all over the country. Next month, I'm going to travel to Japan to play in a huge concert hall. I'd like to tour around the world one day.'



Asif, Kati, Josh and Sang-mi are just like ordinary children, but with one extraordinary difference – a special talent. And they're all on their way to great success!

Vocabulary

3 Use the words from the text to complete the sentences.

- 1 I play chess with my mum. I've never played in a **tournament**.
- 2 At the Olympics, the best athletes win gold _____.
- 3 That poem was excellent. It won first _____ in the poetry contest.
- 4 When they won the World Cup, the team held up the gold _____.
- 5 My sister is _____ at Maths. She never uses a calculator.
- 6 I'm not in the drama club. I don't like to _____ in front of people.
- 7 My cousin swims, plays tennis and runs. He's very _____.
- 8 I'm not very _____. I can't draw very well.
- 9 At the 2008 Olympics, 204 countries _____.
- 10 My brother plays the guitar and sings. He's quite _____.
- 11 I've practised, but I'm still nervous about the _____.
- 12 My mum is an _____ cook, better than anyone I know.

Reading comprehension

4 Answer the questions. Write *Asif*, *Kati*, *Josh* or *Sang-mi*.

- 1 Who plans to travel to a competition? Kati
- 2 Who started learning their skill when they received a present? _____
- 3 Who has a talented parent? _____
- 4 Who learnt their skill from a parent? _____
- 5 Who plans to study in a different country? _____
- 6 Who started learning their skill when they were six? _____
- 7 Who has a room full of prizes? _____
- 8 Who uses the Internet? _____
- 9 Who gets money for their skill? _____
- 10 Who is meeting a famous person? _____
- 11 Who is going to perform in another country? _____
- 12 Who has a talented family? _____

5 Write *True* or *False*.

- 1 Asif's family is also good at art. False
- 2 He paints pictures of people. _____
- 3 He lives in Paris at the moment. _____
- 4 Kati learnt to play chess when she was eight. _____
- 5 She has won many prizes. _____
- 6 She is going to Russia soon. _____
- 7 Josh likes cooking for other people. _____
- 8 He already works in a restaurant. _____
- 9 He hasn't won any prizes. _____
- 10 Sang-mi's brothers are also talented pianists. _____
- 11 She is playing in Japan soon. _____
- 12 She has played all over South Korea. _____

6 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

- 1 What do all of the children have in common?
- 2 Do you think these children are happy? Why or why not?
- 3 Would you like to be gifted like these children? Which of these talents would you most like to have?
- 4 Are there any famous talented children in your country?



All about me

I'm quite good at Maths and Science, but I'm a very active person, too. I like doing all kinds of sports, like football and tennis, but my favourite sport is rugby. I prefer team sports to individual sports like running or swimming because I'm a sociable person as well. I enjoy being with my friends in a team. My best friends are on my rugby team.

I started playing rugby when I was seven years old. My dad bought me a rugby ball for my birthday and I practised every day. Now I'm on my school team and I love it. We practise on Mondays and Thursdays. We always have a good time because all my team mates and my coach are cheerful and funny.

When you finish your writing, always **check for mistakes**. Look for:

a incorrect spelling b incorrect tenses c incorrect punctuation

7 There are mistakes in each sentence below. Rewrite them correctly.

- 1 I like running I like swimming too. I like running. I like swimming, too.
- 2 I'm quiet good at Art and Music.
- 3 I'm very good at football tennis and basketball.
- 4 My mother teaches me the piano when I was four.
- 5 I love dancing its my favourite activity.
- 6 I'm practise every day after school.

8 Write about you and your favourite activities. Answer these questions to give you ideas. Use some of the new vocabulary to describe yourself.

paragraph 1

What kind of person are you? What activities are you good at?

What is your favourite activity?

paragraph 2

When did you start doing this activity? Did you take lessons or did you learn by yourself? How often do you do it now? Why do you enjoy doing it?

9 When you finish, check for mistakes in your work.

All about me

