

Lesson E Writing

A Read the article. Then read the sentences and write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

Sam Springsteen is a firefighter in Jersey City, New Jersey. What is so special about that? Maybe it is not very special, but in 2019, when he passed the test to become a firefighter, it was big news. The reason for this is that he is the youngest son of rock musician Bruce Springsteen and his wife Patti Scialfa, who is also a musician and member of Springsteen's band, the E Street Band.

Bruce Springsteen was born in New Jersey in 1949 into a **blue-collar** family. His father worked first in a factory, then as a security guard, and later had various other jobs, but he was often unemployed. The only salary, very small but at least regular, was brought home by Bruce's mother, who worked as a legal secretary all her life and raised their three children.

Young Bruce made a name for himself locally as a gifted guitar player when he was still in his teens. He played then with some of the musicians whom he went on to play with for most of his life, and who later entered the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as the E Street Band. Bruce became famous worldwide, writing and singing songs about the lives of young working-class men and women who, like him and his sisters, struggled with the fear that they were not going to have a future.

Of course, those songs brought *him* a future, and in 1984, he started to hold his concerts in stadiums because so many people wanted to see him. His 2016 tour, when he was almost 67 years old, was still in stadiums. However, in spite of the fame and wealth that came with it, he never forgot his roots. He used his money and celebrity status to help organizations involved in assisting people who struggle, and, when he isn't touring, he's known for leading the quiet life of a family man—raising three children on a farm not far from where he grew up—rather than that of a rock and roll star.

That may be why Sam Springsteen's choice made it into the news. He could have had an easy life, with an easy job, enjoying his parents' wealth and connections. Instead, he stayed true to his parents' working-class, community-based values. He chose a job in which he has to run into buildings that other people are running out of, and put his own life in danger to save others. As his mother put it, he is the "family's hero."

blue-collar doing work that requires physical skills, like operating machinery

- _____ 1. Sam Springsteen has very rich and famous parents.
- _____ 2. Bruce Springsteen had very rich and famous parents.
- _____ 3. Bruce Springsteen wrote songs about the community he grew up in.
- _____ 4. Bruce Springsteen usually performs to small numbers of people.
- _____ 5. Bruce Springsteen works with community groups.
- _____ 6. Away from the stage, Bruce Springsteen and Patti Scialfa lead very private lives.
- _____ 7. Sam Springsteen has chosen a career in the same field as his parents.
- _____ 8. Sam Springsteen's parents are embarrassed by their son's career choice.