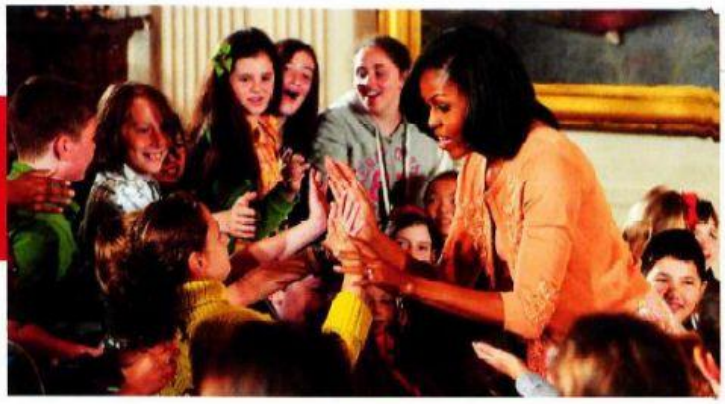
September 30th

Name: _____

IN FOCUS | CHARISMA

Charisma:

A KIND OF MAGIC?



1 _____ She is Michelle Obama, the wife of Barack Obama. In the photo, she is greeting children of her employees who have come to the White House for a 'Bring your children to work day'. Michelle Obama regularly gives talks all over the world to young people. She tells them that anything can happen if they work hard and never give up on their dream. She is currently working on a project which encourages young people to eat more healthily. She inspires young people because she has a special quality – charisma.

2 _____ They point out that people often misunderstand what charisma is and think of it as a kind of fame, but it is not the same as the celebrity of overrated pop stars. Charisma is a kind of magic and is relatively rare. Charismatic personalities are able to draw people to them, and they succeed in getting others to see them as a leader.

3 _____ We want them to inspire us and offer us a vision of a better future. But is charisma a good or bad thing? There are many examples of people who use charisma in a positive way.

Martin Luther King was one of the leaders of the Civil Rights movement in the United States. He was a charismatic speaker who used non-violent methods to bring about equality between black and white people. Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi are two other examples of charismatic political leaders who share the qualities of self-sacrifice and personal courage.

4 _____ In the business world, many top business executives have misused their charisma and acted in a way that greatly damaged their companies. Some, like the Canadian ex-tycoon Conrad Black, have served prison sentences. Far more seriously, we can all think of famous military and political leaders who have destroyed their countries and caused great harm to their people.

5 _____ It certainly is when it causes us to lose our critical judgement, and this is frequently the case. When we choose our leaders, it is vital to consider whether they have the knowledge, wisdom and experience to do a good job. That is what really matters.

Scan the article quickly. Which are the people mentioned in the article?

_____

What do (or did) they do to earn a living?

_____

Read the article and put the first sentence of each paragraph. Write the number of the correct paragraph next to each sentence.

- Unfortunately, we can also find examples of people who have abused their charisma
- Is charisma dangerous?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- Most people will recognize the woman in this photo.
- Most of us expect our leaders to have charisma.
- Nowadays, psychologists are taking greater interest in charisma and want to redefine its meaning.

Answer these questions about the article.

Why is Michelle Obama so good at giving talks? _____

What mistake do people make about charisma? _____

What special ability do charismatic people have? _____

What was Martin Luther King trying to achieve? _____

Why does the writer mention Conrad Black? _____

What us the writer's opinion about charisma? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS