Salman Rushdie/Fatwa 3

What have you learned so far about Salman Rushdie?

1. **Before we proceed with snippets from the Desert Island Discs, let's listen a clip from another radio programme and do this T/F activity _____**

1. Salman Rushdie was born in 1974. __
2. He was born in Bombay. __
3. He grew up in a Hindu family. __
4. The city of Mumbai was exceptionally diverse and glorious in so many ways. __
5. If you grow up in a city like Bombay, you grow up with every conceivable kind of religion around you. ___
6. Even Muslim boys, if they attended a Christian school, were obliged to say the Christian prayers. __
7. All of those boys knew words of "Our Father". __
8. Rushdie grew up in a family and household that was predominantly middle-class, very well-connected. __
9. Rushdie grew up at the time when India was about to go through this convulsive moment in its history – the partition of what was British India into Pakistan and India. __
10. Rushdie wasn't very familiar with Islam and he was probably somebody who comes from a secular family. __
11. He was sent to England as a child to a public school. __
12. He had a wonderful time in that private school. __

Back to 1988, to the Desert Island Discs archives

2. **Listen to the snippet and answer the questions _____:**

1. What year did Salman Rushdie win a Booker Prize?
2. What is the title of the awarded novel?
3. Has English always been the writer's first language?
4. What language he was born speaking?
5. When did Salman start learning English?
6. Does Salman think in English?
7. What kind of curious switch happens when Salman goes to India or Pakistan?

Report back.

3. **Listen to this snippet and fill the gaps _____**

Indian movies are of course not kind of primarily art movies. They are great big

_____ .

This song, which translation means "My shoes are _____ ", it's from a film called "Mr. 420", which means "Mr. _____ ".

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His _____ are Japanese, his _____ are English, the _____ on his head is Russian, but he still thinks he is _____ for all that.

That kind of mixed-up character, that kind of _____ figure is very much to do with the kind of Indian life that I came out of. It actually feels like my theme song.

4. **Listen to the snippet. What was the first Western record Salman Rushdie ever bought? _____**

5. **Listen and answer the questions _____:**

1) How old was Salman when he was sent to England?
2) When did he arrive in the country?
3) What was his first impression?
4) Why does Salman mention *boulder*?
5) Did Salman get along with other boys at school?
6) Continue the line: I was bad at games, good at studies and _____
7) Did Salman go to college in Pakistan?

6. _____ **Why did Salman Rushdie get much less offended (say, in streets) than other black or Asian residents of England?**

7. So, in 1988 The Satanic Verses was published and then, in February 1989 a fatwa was issued. Listen to the clip from yet another interview and tap the things Salman Rushdie did after he had received the phone call about the fatwa _____

phoned Margaret Thatcher

bought a gun

went to Bruce Chatwin's memorial service

smoked a cigarette

drank alcohol

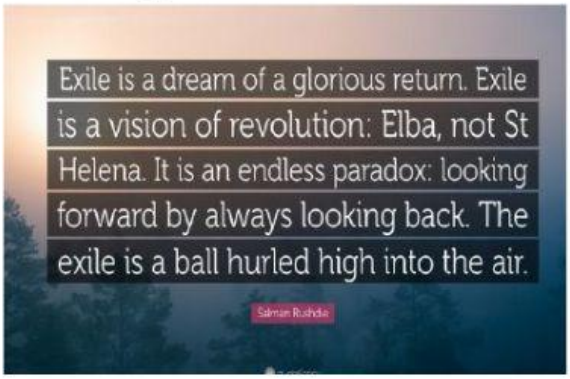
didn't think he had long to live

ran around the house locking the doors

left the house that morning and didn't go back again for years

put down the phone

got a wig and some other items of disguise



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Can you recognize the men in the pictures below?

What might they have in common?

8.Listen to the snippets from a 2012 interview and answer the questions:

A _____

Who was Joseph Anton?
What was one of the reasons for coming up with a pseudonym?
Whose names did Salman Rushdie take for his "alter ego"?

B _____

What was the life story of Joseph Anton?
What was one of the strangest aspects of the living in hiding?

Joseph Conrad, original name **Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski**, (born December 3, 1857, Berdichev, Ukraine, Russian Empire [now Berdychiv, Ukraine]—died August 3, 1924, Canterbury, Kent, England), English novelist and short-story writer of Polish descent. During his lifetime Conrad was admired for the richness of his prose and his renderings of dangerous life at sea and in exotic places. A writer of complex skill and striking insight, but above all of an intensely personal vision, he has been increasingly regarded as one of the greatest English novelists.

9.Listen to the next snippet from the interview and do T/F activity _____

1) The weakest point of that time for the writer came at around 3-year mark of the 12-year experience. ___

2) Salman Rushdie cracked and tried to make a compromise with a group of Islamic leaders in Iran. __

3) He negotiated a statement which said that the writer believed there was no god but Allah and also that he was not going to issue a paperback version of the book. __

4) The statement reads like something an inquisition would make you sign. That's more or less what it was. __

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5) Immediately, the moment Salman Rushdie left the room where he had had that meeting, he started coughing. __
6) He understood that this idea to try to ingratiate with the enemy was not only absurd but improper. __
7) Salman Rushdie says that in the hindsight, the attempt to make compromise with Islamic leaders was beneficial for him as that clarified certain things for him. __

10. Listen to the clip with an excerpt from the memoir and fill the gaps with verb forms _____

In the years _____ , he _____ about this scene, understanding that his story is a sort of prologue, the tale of the moment when the first blackbird _____ . When it _____ , it's just about him; it's individual, particular, specific. Nobody _____ inclined to _____ any conclusions from it. It _____ a dozen years and more before the story _____ until it _____ the sky, like the Archangel Gabriel standing upon the horizon, like a pair of planes flying into tall buildings, like the plague of murderous birds in Alfred Hitchcock's great film.

Watch the trailer of The Birds. Do you agree with the analogy?

11. _____

"I think the same mindset, the same extremism that attacked those buildings in New York and Washington, was the one that attacked me. And I think one of the strange things is that when it happened to me, people didn't really understand it in the West, because they couldn't set it into a narrative that they understood. And after that 9/11 attacks, that narrative became the narrative of all our lives."

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