UNIT 9: PEOPLE

READING SKILLS

Exercise 1: Scanning for main ideas

Read the text. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

Anna Mysak

Hello Luis,

I have an essay question. Can you help me? I have to write about someone I admire and respect. What do you think it means to be 'extraordinary'? What is a 'great' person?

Thanks,

Anna

Luis Castillo

Hi Anna,

This is a very simple question to answer. A great person is remembered by history. It can be a leader, like the president of a country, for example. He (and, unfortunately, it almost always is a 'he') is intelligent and confident. He has a dream, he knows what he wants to achieve, and nothing will stop him.

I hope that helps,

Luis

Anna Mysak

I'm sorry, but I don't agree that a great person is always a man! I am also not sure that a great person is always a leader. Yes, a great person can be talented and intelligent, but he or she should also be able to understand other people's feelings. They should be kind, friendly and honest. I'm afraid that a lot of leaders are probably selfish people. Also, I don't believe that all 'great' people are remembered by history. I am sure that there are many people (for example teachers or nurses, or people who work for charity) who never become famous. These people, who try to help others, are the really great ones.

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Luis Castillo
I think you make an interesting point. I agree that teachers and nurses do a good job, and I also agree that they are kind and talented. However, can we really say that they are 'great'? They are only doing their job. I am talking about people who do something extraordinary, and are well-known to millions of people. In my opinion, you should write about a leader, a sports star, an actor, or someone who is famous all over the world.

Anna Mysak
I have decided who I will write about. I am going to write about my mother. It is true that she will never be famous, and she will never inspire millions of people. However, she inspires me! It was never her 'job' to look after me, but my mother was always reliable and patient, and I learnt a lot from her. That's why I admire her. I think that if there is only one person in the world who thinks you're great, then you *are* great!
Thanks for your help!

Luis Castillo
You're welcome! Can I read your essay when you finish? I might think differently about what it means to be 'great'!

1 The text is
2 The text is written by
3 The writer wants
4 The text is about
5 The writer decides something

Exercise 2: Scanning to find information

Read the emails again. Choose who writes the ideas below, Anna or Luis.

	Anna	Luis
Leaders don't always think about others		
There aren't many great women in history		
Great people are usually well-known		
A great person can be someone normal		
Great people usually tell the truth		
Nurses and teachers are not extraordinary		

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Exercise 3:

Read the emails again. Choose the correct answers for the questions.

1 Why does Luis think that most great people are men?

- ◯ Because most men are intelligent and confident.
- ◯ Because most leaders in history are men.

2 What does Luis think great people do?

- ◯ They make plans, and they won't change them.
- ◯ They don't stop dreaming.

3 What does Anna think about men?

- ◯ They are never great.
- ◯ Not all leaders are men.

4 What does she think about leaders?

- ◯ She believes that they often don't think about other people.
- ◯ She is afraid of people who become leaders.

5 What does Luis think about nurses and teachers?

- ◯ He thinks that they do a better job than actors or sports stars.
- ◯ He thinks that actors and sports stars inspire more people.

6 Why does Anna's mother inspire her?

- ◯ Because she taught Anna many things.
- ◯ Because she will never be famous.

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