

Creative minds: Reading

☺ Read the questions. Then read text A about a talented young person. Which two questions relate to text A? Write Jackie next to the correct questions.

Which person …

1 was inspired by a famous book? _____

2 discovered a talent after watching a film? _____

3 took up a new hobby in order to do something well? _____

4 used a video website to enter a competition? _____

5 provided information about their private life that was well received? _____

6 was confident that their work would be taken seriously? _____

7 had a parent who was initially unsupportive of their idea? _____

8 benefited from a highly unusual form of education? _____

☺ Read the whole article. For the remaining questions, choose from the people (B-D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Complete the sentences with the highlighted words in the text.

1. The Olympics is a chance to see many athletes at the .....of their career.
2. Lucy is .....she can sing, but her voice is awful!
3. They .....a competition to design their website.
4. Do people like Emerson and Nancy give you the .....to get creative?
5. Mark has the .....to be a great singer.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



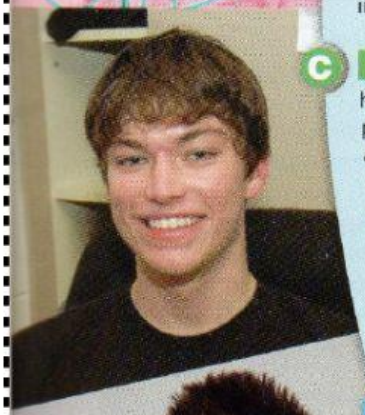
FOUR TO WATCH:

YOUNG, TALENTED AND CREATIVE

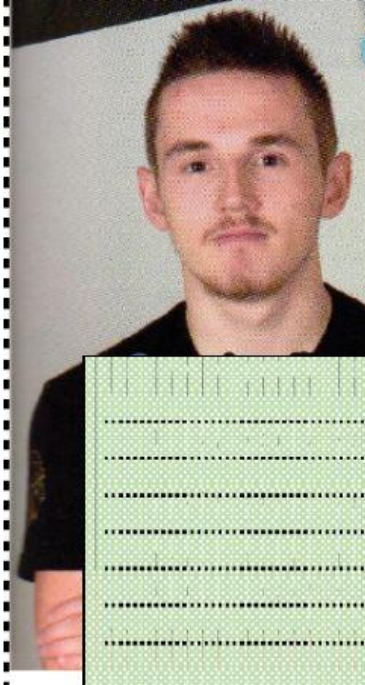
A JACKIE EVANCHO It was while watching the musical version of *Phantom of the Opera* on TV that Jackie Evancho found her passion for music. She started singing the songs around her home and revealed a surprisingly mature singing voice. Jackie started entering local singing contests and after seeing the reaction of audiences, her parents realised her potential. From there, Jackie's life changed dramatically. Her mum started uploading Jackie's performances to the web to share with her ever-increasing numbers of fans. Jackie used the clips to enter an audition for the TV show, *America's Got Talent* and won a place on the show! Although she wasn't quite good enough to win the show – she finished in second place – it was an incredible achievement. Since the show, she's worked as a professional singer. She's released several albums, toured the US and even starred in a Hollywood thriller.



B NANCY YI FAN When Nancy Yi Fan moved to the US from China, aged seven, she spoke hardly any English. She learned by reading classics, she says. It took her two years to write her first novel, *Swordbird*. When she had finished it, she emailed a copy to several leading publishers in the US. Without an agent, book proposals are rarely read, but Nancy believed in her ability to succeed. And she did – a year later, at the age of 12, she was a published novelist with a bestseller. Now, Nancy has not only completed all three books in the *Swordbird* series, but also translated them into Chinese herself. The inspiration for Nancy's series came from a dream and her love of birds. The story is about a world full of birds, at war over a lack of food. Nancy even trained in martial arts in order to write the fight scenes more accurately.



C EMERSON SPARTZ As a child, Emerson Spartz read a lot. Instead of having to help around the house, he and his brother were told to read biographies of successful people. At just 12, Emerson persuaded his parents to let him leave school and teach himself at home. Very few children of his age do this, but it quickly proved successful for him. While Emerson was reading the first novel in the Harry Potter series, he came up with the idea of *Mugglenet* – a website and online forum for Potter fans. He launched the website when he was still just 12. Over the next five years, Emerson and his parents watched in amazement as the website grew to receive, at its peak, 50 million visits every month. Emerson even wrote a book for fans on the famous wizard. Now Emerson is running his own company, Spartz Media. The company owns over 20 popular websites especially aimed at young people.



D TOM CASSELL Tom Cassell is an entrepreneur who has turned a hobby into a living. A massive fan of computer gaming, Tom had the idea of filming a game and commenting on the action while he was playing. But just as popular as Tom's comments on the game itself, were the details he gave about what he was up to personally. At first, Tom's father wasn't convinced the project would be successful. However, when one video got 3,000 views in a day, he changed his mind. It took three years, but Tom's online video channel now has millions of viewers. He travels widely, promoting his videos and is a well-known figure in the video-gaming world. For Tom, this is just the beginning. 'I've got three ultimate goals in life – a job in the games industry, to travel the world and create my own house. I'm going to build my own dream gaming house.'

Answer

Do you think people are naturally creative, or can they learn to be creative?

What other qualities do young people need in order to succeed?

LIVEWORKSHEETS