5.5 Reading

A Musical Star

Joey Alexander looks like other teen boys his age. He enjoys the same kinds of things too: swimming, tennis and video games. But Joey is different: he is an amazing musician.



A

Joey was born in 2003 on the Indonesian island of Bali. He comes from a musical family: his aunt is a rock singer and his father is a jazz fan who plays the piano and the guitar. Joey was very young when he started listening to his dad's collection of jazz albums and he was only six when he learnt how to play a small keyboard. His father often took him to jazz clubs and at the age of eight he was playing the piano with professional musicians.

B

One day, Wynton Marsalis, a famous trumpet player, saw Joey on YouTube. He thought Joey was talented and invited him to perform in a concert in New York. Joey's parents wanted Joey to develop his talent, so in 2014 the family moved to New York.

C

The next year, Joey recorded his first jazz album, *My Favourite Things*, and in 2016 he recorded *Countdown*, his second album. He didn't only play the piano on these albums; he wrote some of the songs on them as well. So, what is Joey going to do in the future? He isn't sure. He's still young, but he hopes he will continue to perform and compose music. Let's wait and see.

1 **Read the article quickly. Who is the boy in the photo? What kind of music does he play?**

2 **Read the article again and match headings 1–4 to paragraphs A–C. There is one extra heading.**

1 ☐ Performing and composing
2 ☐ Another country
3 ☐ Talent is not enough!
4 ☐ Talented from a very early age

3 **Read the article again and answer the questions. Write complete sentences.**

1 What kind of things does Joey enjoy?
He enjoys swimming, tennis and video games.
2 How old was he when he started playing a musical instrument?
_____
3 Where did his father often take him?
_____
4 Where did he and his family move in 2014?
_____
5 Who is Wynton Marsalis?
_____
6 Did Joey compose all the music on his first two albums?
_____

4 **Guess the meaning of the words highlighted in the text. Then look them up in a dictionary.**

5 **Complete the sentences with the highlighted words and phrases in the article.**

1 Musicians must work hard to *develop* their talent.
2 She isn't a _____ musician. Music is just her hobby.
3 The cello is an instrument that _____ a very large violin.
4 The musician has a large _____ of old musical instruments.

6 **Imagine you're going to interview Joey about his plans. Write four questions. Use the ideas in the box and your own.**

learn to play another instrument
go to university
record an album with Wynton Marsalis

Are you going to learn to play another instrument?
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS