

Reading

More than just a child star

Shirley Temple wasn't born into a show business family but she enjoyed singing, dancing and acting from a very early age. It was while she was at a dancing class, at the age of three, that she was spotted by a Hollywood casting director. A year later, she appeared in her first film. Two years after that, she became famous. During the 1930s, she was one of Hollywood's biggest stars. Unfortunately, it couldn't last. As she grew into a teenager, her charm faded.

5 Even her blond hair turned brown. The two films she made in 1940 failed at the box office and her parents decided to take her away from Hollywood and put her into full-time education. It was difficult at first. During her time in Hollywood, she had never really mixed with children of her own age. After a difficult beginning, though, she managed to settle down and had a happy five years there.

Things might have been very different. In 1939, MGM approached her to play the part of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. Shirley's studios wanted her to appear in their film. Shirley accepted her studio's proposal, which turned out to be the wrong decision. *The Wizard of Oz* was a huge hit and made Judy Garland a star. Shirley's film was far less successful and it was the beginning of the end for her.

After her film career had finished, Shirley became interested in politics and good causes. She was a Republican and tried to win election for Congress in 1967. Although she was defeated, she soon found another, even more important, role to play. In 1969, she became an ambassador to the United Nations. In 1974 she became US ambassador to Ghana and later she was also the US ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

She also used her fame to promote causes that were important to her. In 1972, she found that she had breast cancer. At that time, many women were reluctant to talk about the illness. This was why so many people died of it. By the time they went to see a doctor, it was often too late. However, Shirley realised that it would be more beneficial to share her problem with others than to keep it to herself. She held a news conference from her hospital bed. She talked about her experiences and how important it was to diagnose the illness early. Thanks to her, attitudes changed and many lives were saved.

Shirley recovered and lived for another 42 years, finally dying peacefully of natural causes at the age of 85.

However, for most people, she will always be a little girl with blond curls, dancing and singing her most famous song, "On The Good Ship Lollipop".

1 Read the text and answer the questions in your own words, according to the text. (___ / 6)

1 Why couldn't Shirley Temple's success last?

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2 How might things have been different for Shirley?

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3 How did Shirley change attitudes to breast cancer?

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2 Find words or phrases in the text that mean: (___ / 4)

1 noticed (paragraph 1)

2 gradually disappeared (paragraph 1)

3 to start living a stable life in one place (paragraph 1)

4 slow and unwilling (paragraph 4)

3 Decide if the statements are true or false. Quote from the text to justify your answers. (___ / 4)

1 Shirley Temple's parents were entertainers.

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2 She could have starred in *The Wizard of Oz*.

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3 She became a member of Congress in 1967.

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4 In the 1970s Shirley had a diplomatic career.

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