

1 READING



1 Scan the blog post. Who are Rob O'Byrne and Chris Martin? How did they meet?



Reading strategy

2 Look at the highlighted words in the blog post. Try to work out what they mean from the context. Then write them next to the definitions.

1 _____ changed
2 _____ story
3 _____ real, not fake
4 _____ concerts
5 _____ light with one beam
6 _____ try to take hold of



3 **EXAM** Answer the questions. Use your own words where possible.

1 What does the writer say about the Croke Park concert?

2 How did Rob end up on the stage with Coldplay?

3 What happened on stage?

4 What effect did seeing Rob on stage have on the writer?

5 Why was Rob amazed?

6 What does the writer say still needs work?



4 **EXAM** Read the article again and decide if the following statements are T (true), F (false) or NG (not given). Give evidence from the blog for your answers.

1 The author felt very fortunate when he arrived at Croke Park.

2 The two fans who fell onto Rob O'Byrne were embarrassed and apologized immediately.

3 By the time the speaker left the concert, he had a higher opinion of not only the band, but also of humanity in general.

4 Rob had not been to many concerts before.

A moment that changed me

In July 2017, the amazing band Coldplay were in concert in Dublin's Croke Park. Like most of the gigs, it was introduced by a firework display. In the crowd around 80,000 fans had turned up to see the band live. I was one of them. Coldplay had been one of my favourite bands for years, so when I got to Croke Park, I felt like one of the luckiest people alive (by the time I left), I was even more impressed by the band, but also by people in general.

The crowd was fantastic! Everyone was excited when Coldplay threw large inflatable balls towards them. One of the balls passed over Rob O'Byrne, a music fan who had been in a wheelchair following an accident in 2011. Unfortunately, two fans, who had been in the crowd, fell onto him and tried to grab the ball. Rather than feel embarrassed, the two fans lifted Rob up so that he could see the stage better. Suddenly a spotlight was shone on Rob and members of the audience started passing him down towards the stage. Chris Martin, the lead singer of Coldplay, then helped lift Rob onto the stage. Before he (and the rest of the audience) knew what was happening, Rob was handed a harmonica

by Martin, who sang a song about Rob and encouraged him to play the instrument. Rob played as he saw the 80,000 Coldplay fans cheer him on like stars shining in the night. It was at that moment that something inside me changed forever. I was deeply moved seeing how Rob reacted to what was happening. I also realized that I had realized what inclusivity could mean. It also hit me how easily Chris Martin had shifted his focus onto Rob and opened up space for him.

I read a few days later in a news article that Rob was amazed at how he was made to feel part of the show by the fans and the band. As a music lover who had been going to concerts since he was very young, Rob himself had never experienced anything like it. Rob's night of fame is an inspiring tale of inclusion. Accessibility to places of entertainment is often shocking for people living with mobility issues. A lot of work still has to be done, not only in making venues more accessible, but also in making sure that everyone feels seen and included. It's up to us all to make a difference.

Personally, as a fan at a Coldplay concert, I felt that I was part of something special and having a nice night out. I felt as if I was part of something much bigger. When the band included Rob, it was genuine and organic. Could that be the secret to bringing real change on important issues, and most importantly, including everyone?



5 Complete the sentences with 1-3 words in each gap.

1 Coldplay played Croke Park in _____.
2 Big _____ were thrown into the audience.
3 Two fans _____ Rob, so they fell on him.
4 Rob had loved music since _____.
5 Access to venues for people with mobility issues can be _____.
6 It is important to _____ if society is going to change.

6 **EXAM** Find sentences in the text that mean what has been paraphrased below.

1 I also realized how effortlessly Chris Martin had turned his attention to Rob and made room for him.

2 Access to entertainment venues is often surprisingly difficult for people with mobility challenges.

7 **EXAM** Answer the questions.

1 In which two words are the underlined sounds pronounced like the sh in glow? acceptable, ashamed, issues, impressed.
2 In which word is the underlined vowel pronounced like the eo in ear? megastar, lead, easily, cheer.
3 In which word do the underlined letters have the same sound as the a in now? concert, crowd, shocking, moment.
4 In which word is the letter q pronounced the same as in graffiti? general, grab, gig, organic.
5 Which word contains the same vowel sound as the underlined vowel in maple? fans, ensemble, sang, harmonica.

8 Think about a venue where you live and answer the questions.

1 Is it accessible? How?
2 What do you think could be improved to make it more accessible for everyone?

A moment that changed me

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The crowd was fantastic! Everyone was excited when Coldplay threw large inflatable balls towards them. One of the balls passed over Rob O'Byrne, a music fan who had been in a wheelchair following an accident in 2005. Unfortunately, two fans, who hadn't seen Rob, fell onto him as they tried to grab the ball. Rather than feel embarrassed, the two fans lifted Rob up so that he could see the stage better. Suddenly, a spotlight was shone on Rob and members of the audience started passing him down towards the stage. Chris Martin, the lead singer of Coldplay, then helped lift Rob onto the stage.

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I read a few days later in a news article that Rob was amazed at how he was made to feel part of the show by the fans and the band. As a music lover who had been going to concerts since he was very young, Rob himself had never experienced anything like it. Rob's night of fame is an inspiring tale of inclusion. Accessibility to places of entertainment is often shocking for people living with mobility issues. A lot of work still has to be done, not only in making venues more accessible, but also in making sure that everyone feels seen and included. It's up to us all to make a difference.

Personally, as a fan at a Coldplay concert, I felt that I wasn't just amusing myself and having a nice night out. I felt as if I was part of something much bigger. When the band included Rob, it was genuine and organic. Could that be the secret to bringing real change on important issues, and most importantly, including everyone?

