The Legacy of Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson was one of the most famous entertainers in the history of music. Known around the world as the **"King of Pop"** he became famous for his singing, dancing, creativity, and unforgettable performances. His career lasted for more than four decades, and his music continues to inspire millions of people today.

Michael Joseph Jackson was born on August 29, 1958, in Gary, in the United States. He grew up in a large family with nine brothers and sisters. His father, Joseph Jackson, believed his children had musical talent and encouraged them to practice singing and dancing from a very young age. Michael began performing with his brothers in a group called **The Jackson 5**. Although he was the youngest member, he quickly became the star of the group due to his voice and stage presence.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, The Jackson 5 became extremely popular. They signed with Motown and released many successful songs such as I Want You Back, ABC, and I'll Be There. Audiences loved Michael's energetic performances. Even as a child, he showed extraordinary talent and confidence on stage.

THE JACKSON 5

As Michael grew older, he wanted to develop his own artistic style. In the late 1970s, he began his solo career while still performing with his brothers. In 1979, he released the album Off the Wall, produced by Quincy Jones. The album was a huge success and included famous songs like Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough and Rock with You. It showed the world that Michael Jackson could become an international superstar on his own.

However, his greatest success came in 1982 with the release of **Thriller**. This album became one of the best-selling albums in music history. It included legendary songs such as **Billie Jean**, **Beat It**, and **Thriller**. The music videos for these songs completely changed the music industry. Before Michael Jackson, music videos were usually simple promotional tools. After Thriller, music videos became large artistic productions with stories, choreography, costumes, and cinematic effects.

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Thiller

One of Michael Jackson's most famous dance moves was the **moonwalk**. He performed it publicly for the first time during a television performance of Billie Jean in 1983. The audience was amazed, and the dance became one of the most iconic movements in entertainment history. Michael was admired for combining music and dance in a unique way that influenced generations of performers.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Michael continued releasing successful albums, including **Bad**, **Dangerous**, and **HIStory: Past, Present and Future, Book I**. Songs such as **Smooth Criminal**, **Black or White**, and **Earth Song** discussed themes like violence, racism, environmental problems, and world peace. Many people admired him because he used his music to talk about important social issues.

Michael Jackson was also known for his humanitarian work. He donated millions of dollars to charities and supported causes related to children, education, and health. He participated in the charity song **We Are the World** alongside many famous artists to help people suffering from famine in Africa. His generosity earned him recognition from humanitarian organizations around the world.

Despite his success, Michael Jackson's life was often difficult. Growing up famous placed enormous pressure on him from an early age. The media constantly followed his personal life, appearance, and relationships. Over time, he became one of the most discussed celebrities in the world. He faced criticism, rumors, and controversies that affected both his career and emotional well-being.

In 2009, Michael Jackson announced a series of comeback concerts called This Is It in London. Fans around the world were excited about his return to the stage. However, on June 25, 2009, Michael Jackson died unexpectedly at the age of 50. His death shocked millions of people globally, and fans gathered in many countries to celebrate his life and music.

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Even after his death, Michael Jackson remains one of the most influential artists of all time as a global cultural icon. His songs continue to be played on the radio, streamed online, and studied by musicians and dancers. Modern artists often mention him as an inspiration because of his creativity, work ethic, and innovation. His music videos, performances, and dance style changed pop culture forever. His legacy continues through his art, his fans, and the generations of performers inspired by his work.

- **Write T (True) or F (False).**

a) Michael Jackson was born in New York. TRUE FALSE

b) He became famous as part of The Jackson 5. TRUE FALSE

c) Thriller was released in 1979. TRUE FALSE

d) Michael Jackson created the moonwalk in 1983. TRUE FALSE

e) His songs sometimes discussed social issues. TRUE FALSE

f) MJ focused on music and never supported charities. TRUE FALSE

g) The media constantly followed his personal life. TRUE FALSE

h) Michael Jackson died in 2009. TRUE FALSE

- **Choose the correct answer.**

i) Why did Michael Jackson become famous at a young age?

( ) Because he acted in movies

( ) Because of his singing and stage presence

( ) Because he played sports

j) Which company signed The Jackson 5?

( ) Sony **( )** Universal **( )** Motown **( )** Netflix

k) What is the moonwalk?

( ) A singing technique **( )** A famous dance move **( )** A concert tour

l) Why was Michael Jackson often under pressure?

( ) People disliked music **( )** He wanted to become a teacher

( ) The media constantly followed his life **( )** He retired very early

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- Answer according to the text.

a) Why was Michael Jackson called the “King of Pop”?

_____

b) What made Michael Jackson different from many other performers?

_____

c) How did Thriller influence the music industry?

_____

d) How did Michael Jackson help people outside music?

_____

e) Why does Michael Jackson remain influential today?

_____

f) Should famous artists use their influence to support social causes?

_____

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