

Reading (45 points)

Giving Voice to the Characters

1 The sidewalks* of the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles are very famous. There are more than 2,600 stars on them with the names of actors, musicians and directors. Surprisingly, 12 of the stars are for animated characters from movies and television.

2 What makes an animated character so popular that it receives a star? A successful animated character has a personality and an appearance that people will remember. But probably the most important part of the character is the voice. Many people can identify a character just by hearing his or her special voice, like Donald Duck or Bart Simpson.

3 Voice actors are the people who create these voices. First they learn about the character's personality and appearance. Then they give the character a special voice. On the television show, *The Simpsons*, Nancy Cartwright created the voices of over 50 characters. She thought of the voice of Bart Simpson, her most famous character, when she learned that he was a very smart boy who was always in trouble at school. A great voice actor in the past, Mel Blanc, was called "The Man of a Thousand Voices". He created the voices of 400 different characters, but the audience never knew his name, only the voices he used.

4 Today, famous actors often play the voices of animated characters in movies. That way, people of all ages come to watch children's movies. The first famous actor to become a voice actor was Robin Williams. He was the voice of the genie in the 1992 movie *Aladdin*. In the Shrek movies, all of the main voices are famous actors.

5 Animated characters come alive from the minute they open their mouths. Their special voices help the audience enjoy the performance.

*sidewalks أرصفة / מדרכות

Answer the questions about the article.

- 1 Complete the sentence. (5 points)
According to paragraph 1, people come to the Hollywood Walk of Fame to see
- 2 What is the main idea of paragraph 2? (6 points)

- a. A successful animated character always has a personality.
- b. Donald Duck and Bart Simpson are very famous characters.
- c. The voice is probably the most important part of an animated character.
- d. Some animated characters are so popular they receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

3 According to paragraph 3, Nancy Cartwright and Mel Blanc (6 points)

- a. created voices on the television show *The Simpsons*
- b. created voices for many characters
- c. worked together
- d. were always in trouble at school

4 Name TWO things Nancy Cartwright learned about Bart Simpson before she created his voice. (paragraph 3) (2 x 3 = 6 points)

- 1.
- 2.

5 How are Mel Blanc and Robin Williams similar? How are they different? (paragraphs 3 and 4) (2 x 4 = 8 points)

- 1. Similar:
.....
- 2. Different:
.....

6 According to paragraph 4, why are famous actors used as voice actors in animated movies today? (6 points)

.....
.....

7 What do you know about voice actors? (paragraphs 3, 4 and 5) (2 x 4 = 8 points)
Circle the TWO correct answers.

- a. They are sometimes famous actors.
- b. They create the character's appearance.
- c. The audience always knows their names.
- d. They make the characters come alive.
- e. Robin Williams was the first voice actor.