

ENGLISH 12 - Unit 1: LIFE STORIES

Reading

One of the highest honors for formalists, writers, and musical composers is the Pulitzer Prize. First awarded in 1927, the Pulitzer Prize has been won by Ernest Hemingway, Harper Lee, John F. Kennedy, and Rodgers and Hammerstein, among others. As with many famous awards, this prize was named after its founder, Joseph Pulitzer.

Joseph Pulitzer's story, like that of many immigrants to the United States, is one of hardship, hard work and triumph. Born in Hungary, Joseph Pulitzer moved to United States in 1864. He wanted to be a reporter, but he started his American life by fighting in the American Civil War. After the war, Pulitzer worked for the German - language newspaper, the Westliche Post. His skills as a reporter were wonderful, and he soon became a partial owner of the paper.

In 1878, Pulitzer was able to start a newspaper of his own. Right from the first edition, the newspaper took a controversial approach to news. Pulitzer wanted to appeal to the average reader, so he produced exciting stories of scandal and intrigue. Such an approach is commonplace today, but in Pulitzer's time it was new and different. The approach led to the discovery of many instances of corruption by influential people. Pulitzer's paper became very famous and is still produced today.

The success of Joseph Pulitzer's newspaper made him a very wealthy man, so he wanted to give something back to his profession. Throughout his later years, he worked to establish university programs for the teaching of journalism, and he funded numerous scholarships to assist journalism students. Finally, he wanted to leave a legacy that would encourage writers to remember the importance of quality. On his death, he gave two million dollars to Columbia University so they could award prizes to great writers.

The Pulitzer Prize recipients are a very select group. For most, winning a Pulitzer Prize is the highlight of their career. If an author, journalist, or composer you know has won a Pulitzer Prize, you can be sure they are at the top of their profession.

Question 1: Why does the writer mention "John F. Kennedy" in the first paragraph?

- A. He was one of the inventors of the famous awards.
- B. He was one of the winners of the Pulitzer Prize.
- C. He was one of the people who selected the Pulitzer winners.
- D. He was in one of the scandals reported on by Joseph Pulitzer.

Question 2: According to the reading passage, why did Joseph Pulitzer invent the Pulitzer Prize?

- A. to encourage people to remember his name and success
- B. encourage writers to remember the importance of quality
- C. to encourage journalism students to achieve their goals
- D. to encourage work of the Pulitzer winners

Question 3: According the passage, who receives the Pulitzer Prize?

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| A. Columbia University graduates | B. journalism students |
| C. noted writers and composers | D. most newspaper reporters |

Question 4: According to the reading passage, how did Joseph Pulitzer appeal to the average reader?

- A. He wrote about famous writers of journalism and literature
- B. He wrote stories about the war
- C. He produced his own newspaper
- D. He produced exciting stories of scandal and intrigue

Question 5: Which sentence about Joseph Pulitzer is true according to the reading passage?

- A. He received a scholarship when he was a university student.
- B. He was rich even when he was young
- C. He was a reporter during the American Civil War
- D. He immigrated to the United States from Hungary

VOCABULARY

Read the passage again and choose the correct words from the definitions.

1. a person who receives sth	
2. a very great success	
3. causing disagreement or discussion	
4. illegal, immoral or dishonest behaviour, especially by people in positions of power	
5. money or property that you receive from sb after they die	