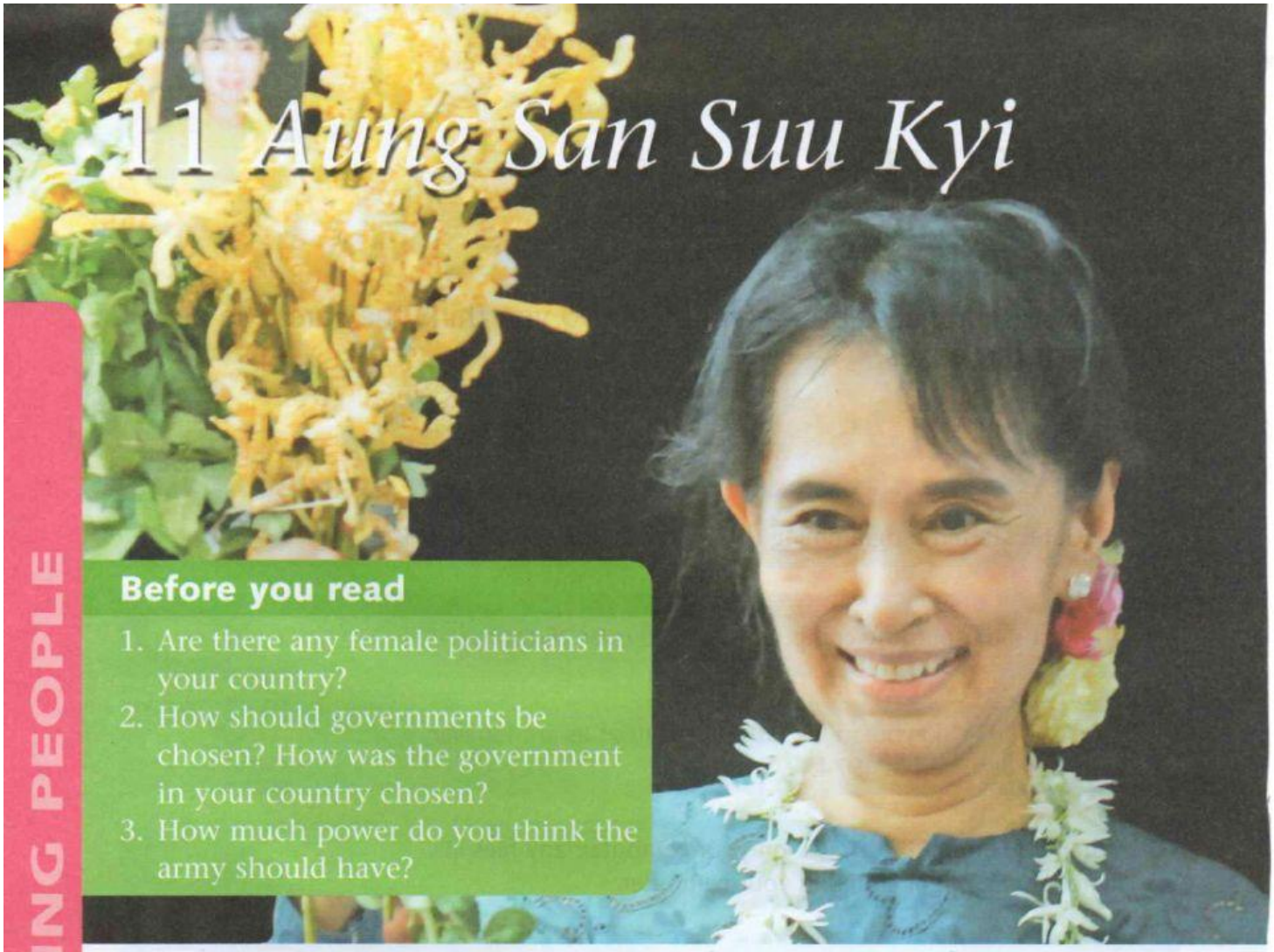
11 Aung San Suu Kyi



Before you read

1. Are there any female politicians in your country?
2. How should governments be chosen? How was the government in your country chosen?
3. How much power do you think the army should have?

Reading

1 After 1948 Burma, now also known as Myanmar, was a free country. But in 1962 the army took control of the country. Ever since then, Myanmar has had a harsh military government. However many people have struggled to bring freedom back to Myanmar. For her part in the struggle, Aung San Suu Kyi was given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

2 In 1988 Aung San Suu Kyi became the leader of the National League for Democracy, a party that opposes Myanmar's military government. She made speeches against the government and organised protests. In July 1989 Suu Kyi was sentenced to house arrest. Although she remained under house arrest until 1995, she continued her struggle for freedom. Protests in Myanmar and around the world forced the military government to have an election in May 1990. Suu Kyi's party won the election, but the military government ignored the results.

3 Aung San Suu Kyi was given the Nobel Peace Prize because of her peaceful struggle and her bravery. Soldiers have threatened to shoot her, and many of her supporters have been sent to prison or killed. Suu Kyi has been arrested many times. Since 1989 she has spent fifteen years in prison or under house arrest but she has never stopped speaking against the government. She has also argued against violence. Instead of fighting with the government, her protests have always been peaceful. Today Suu Kyi's struggle goes on, and her support around the world continues to grow.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

A. Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase.

opposes election threatened house arrest party

1. A student from another school _____ me today. He said he would hurt me if I didn't give him my trainers.
2. A _____ is a group of people with the same ideas about politics.
3. An _____ is when the people of a country choose their government.
4. If you are under _____, you are not allowed to leave your house.
5. The president strongly _____ going to war. He thinks it would be a very bad idea.

B. Choose the correct word or phrase with the same meaning as the blue words in each sentence.

fighting people who agreed with what he was doing
paid no attention to army, navy and airforce
a talk that you give to a group of people

1. I have to make a speech at my best friend's wedding. I don't know what I'm going to say.
2. When I grow up I am going to join the military. I want to protect my country.
3. You shouldn't use violence to settle an argument. You should talk about it instead.
4. Nelson Mandela was a very popular president. He had many supporters.
5. I think Pam is still angry with me. When I said hello to her this morning she ignored me!

In other words

A. What is the main purpose of the passage? Circle 1, 2 or 3.

1. To describe Myanmar.
2. To describe the government of Myanmar.
3. To tell Aung San Suu Kyi's story.

B. Match each heading to the correct paragraph in the passage.

1. Paragraph ___ Why Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded a Nobel Prize.
2. Paragraph ___ Aung San Suu Kyi's struggle.
3. Paragraph ___ The military comes to power in Myanmar.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

General understanding

Circle T for true or F for false for each of the following statements.

1. The people of Myanmar chose a military government. T / F
2. Aung San Suu Kyi opposes the military government in Myanmar. T / F
3. Aung San Suu Kyi has supporters outside Myanmar. T / F
4. Aung San Suu Kyi believes in violent protests. T / F

In detail

Write short answers to the following questions.

1. When did the military government come to power? _____
2. When was Aung San Suu Kyi first sentenced to house arrest? _____
3. When did Aung San Suu Kyi's first house arrest end? _____
4. When did Aung San Suu Kyi win an election in Myanmar?

   _____
5. What has happened to many of Aung San Suu Kyi's supporters in Myanmar? _____

In focus

Who does what in the passage? Match the two parts of each sentence.

FACT	AGENT
1. Myanmar was taken over	by the government.
2. Myanmar has been ruled harshly	by Aung San Suu Kyi.
3. Speeches were made against the government	by the army.
4. The election results were ignored	by soldiers.
5. Aung San Suu Kyi has been threatened	by a military government.

Discussion

Discuss the following questions with a partner or in a group.

1. What kind of person is Aung San Suu Kyi?
2. If you could interview her, what questions would you ask?
3. Do you think Suu Kyi and her party will be successful?
4. Can we do anything to help Suu Kyi's cause? Should we help?
5. Can you think of other people who have received the Nobel Peace Prize?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

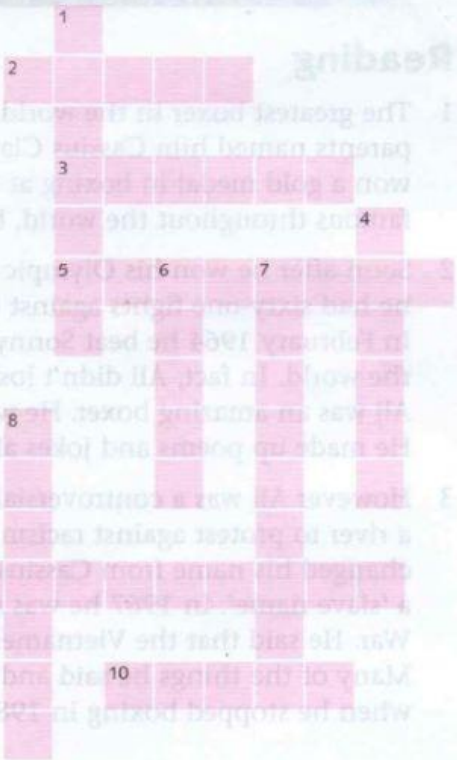
Taking you further

A family affair

Aung San Suu Kyi isn't the first person in her family to fight for Myanmar's freedom. Until 1948 the country was controlled by Britain. Suu Kyi's father, General Aung San, helped free Myanmar from the British after the Second World War. Myanmar has many different tribes and races. General Aung San had to create a single country from all the different groups, but he was a brave and honest man, and the people trusted him. He promised freedom and equal treatment to all the groups that joined the new country. Because of his success, he is known as the father of modern Myanmar. Sadly, he was killed by one of his enemies in July 1947, less than six months before Myanmar became free.

Crossword

Read the clues and complete the crossword. All the answers are in the reading passages.



Across

2. not afraid
3. a talk that you give to a group of people
5. a time when people choose their government by voting
9. people who agree with what you are doing and want you to succeed
10. a group of people with the same ideas about politics

Down

1. thought a person was honest and good
4. truthful
6. the same
7. what you do to somebody or something
8. disagreed with

LIVEWORKSHEETS