Unit 16

READING

Young and Gifted



Scan the article and write the names.
Who is happy to spend lots of time alone?
Who is multilingual?
Who has done community service?

Ali Pirhani comes from Hamedan in Iran. By the age of five, he could speak French, German, and English as well as his native language, Farsi. By the age of 24, he was a fluent speaker of 19 languages, including such diverse languages as Hindi, Arabic, Turkish, and Swahili. Ali says, "I have always been interested in communicating with people from different nations in order to learn from them. I think learning languages is one of the best ways to learn about their cultures." He has established a polyglot center to promote multilingualism by conducting research into language learning.



A lot of people have sailed, nonstop and alone, around the world, but Jessica Watson claims to be the first 16-year-old to have done so. On May 15, 2010, she returned to Sydney, Australia, after 210 days at sea. However, her claim is not recognized by the World Sailing Speed Record Council. As its name suggests, the council only considers speed records, not factors such as age. Also, the council's minimum distance to qualify for circumnavigation is 26,000 nautical miles, but Jessica's route, via the southern oceans, was shorter than this. Her reaction to the council's decision? "It really doesn't bother me."

At age 10, Samson Diamond joined a music project in Soweto, South Africa, and picked up a violin. He soon became leader of the project's Buskaid Soweto String Ensemble, which plays classical music. Later, he obtained a master's degree in music performance. He has also used his talent to serve poor communities in England, Jamaica, and his home country by teaching underprivileged people how to empower themselves through music. He says, "My philosophy is 'the further you go, the further there is to go. Never stop searching.' "



A Read the article. Find the words in *italics* in the article.
Then match each word with its meaning.

..... 1. *diverse*	a. sailing (or flying) around something
..... 2. *polyglot*	b. poor, not having the things most people have
..... 3. *circumnavigation*	c. different
..... 4. *underprivileged*	d. speaking or using many different languages

B Which statements are inferences (**I**)? Which are restatements (**R**)?
Which are not given (**NG**)?

..... 1. Ali Pirhani learned a lot of languages when he was a teenager.
..... 2. He believes that culture and language are closely connected.
..... 3. Jessica Watson circumnavigated the world via the southern oceans.
..... 4. She plans to circumnavigate the world via a longer route.
..... 5. Samson Diamond was a fast learner on the violin
..... 6. He wants young people to play sports as well as music.

LIVEWORKSHEETS