

Year 5 English – Unit 7: Growing Up
Reading Material: Robert Wadlow – The Gentle Giant
The Story of the Tallest Man Who Ever Lived

Robert Wadlow was a very tall man from the USA. People called him **the Giant of Illinois** or **the Gentle Giant** because he was very quiet.

Robert was born in **Alton, Illinois, USA**. He grew up and went to school in Alton. He was the oldest of five children and had brothers and sisters. They were all of average height.

After leaving school, Robert went to university, but he left without getting a qualification. He later became famous when he appeared in a circus.

Robert got a job with the shoe company that made his special shoes. His job gave him the opportunity to travel to many different towns in the USA. He did not get married or have children.

Robert grew very quickly throughout his life. When he was **one year old**, he was already **1 metre** tall. At the age of **six**, he was **1.83 metres** tall. By the age of **12**, he had grown to **2.18 metres**. At **17**, he was **2.51 metres** tall, and at **22**, he reached **2.72 metres**.

Robert died when he was still a young man because of a problem with one of his legs. Today, he is remembered as **the tallest man who ever lived**.



Activity 1: Tick (✓) the Correct Answer

Read each word or phrase. Tick (✓) the correct meaning.

1. grew up

- ☐ A. became older
- ☐ B. went to another country
- ☐ C. became shorter

2. qualification

- ☐ A. a special type of shoe
- ☐ B. a certificate gained after studying
- ☐ C. a place to study

3. gentle

- ☐ A. angry and noisy
- ☐ B. strong and fast
- ☐ C. kind, calm and quiet

4. travelled

- ☐ A. went from one place to another
- ☐ B. stayed at home
- ☐ C. went to sleep

5. height

- ☐ A. how old someone is
- ☐ B. how tall someone is
- ☐ C. how heavy someone is

Activity 2: Choose the Correct Answer

1. Where was Robert Wadlow born?

- A. Alton, Illinois
- B. New York
- C. London

2. How many children were there in Robert's family?

- A. Three
- B. Four
- C. Five

3. Why was Robert called the "Gentle Giant"?

- A. He was very quiet.
- B. He was very noisy.
- C. He was very funny.

4. How did Robert become famous?

- A. He became a teacher.
- B. He appeared in a circus.
- C. He became a doctor.

5. Where did Robert get a job?

- A. At a university
- B. At a circus
- C. With the shoe company that made his special shoes

6. Did Robert get married?

- A. Yes, he did.
- B. No, he didn't.
- C. The text does not say.

7. How tall was Robert at the age of 22?

- A. 2.18 metres
- B. 2.51 metres
- C. 2.72 metres

8. Why did Robert travel to different towns in the USA?

- A. He travelled for the shoe company.
- B. He went to university.
- C. He visited his family.

Activity 3: True or False

- 1. Robert Wadlow was born in the USA.
- 2. Robert was the youngest of five children.
- 3. His brothers and sisters were all of average height.
- 4. Robert completed his university qualification.
- 5. Robert appeared in a circus.
- 6. Robert got married and had children.
- 7. Robert travelled to different towns in the USA.
- 8. Robert was 2.72 metres tall when he was 22.

Activity 4: Robert's Age and Height

Complete the table using information from the text.

Age Height

- 1 _____ metre(s)
- 6 _____ metres

Age Height

12 _____ metres

17 _____ metres

22 _____ metres

Activity 5: Complete the Sentences

1. Robert went to _____ but did not get a qualification.
2. He became famous when he appeared in a _____.
3. People called him the Gentle Giant because he was very _____.
4. A shoe company made his special _____.
5. Robert Wadlow is remembered as the _____ man who ever lived.