

Remembering David Bowie

Today let's talk about music legend David Bowie. The singer died in New York on the 10th January 2016 at the age of 69 following an 18 month battle with liver cancer.

Bowie had kept his illness a secret from his fans; only his family and a few close friends actually knew. He told them that he wanted to be remembered for the good times and his music. Shortly after his death he was secretly cremated in New York without any of his family or friends present 'without fuss' – no big show, no fan-fare.

Bowie's new album *Blackstar* was released just days before his death. It has been described as a memorial for his fans. The song 'Blackstar' is now widely interpreted as a premonition of his impending death with the haunting lyrics, 'Look up here, I'm in heaven'.

Following Bowie's death fans have been buying his albums in droves. A quarter of the UK Top 40 Album Chart was soon occupied by the legendary singer and musician.

Born David Robert Jones in 1947, he adopted the name David Bowie in 1965. Pre-Bowie in 1963, he was in a band called the Konrads.

Bowie's best known creation was the fictional Ziggy Stardust who performed with the Spiders from Mars. Classic Bowie hits include the legendary 'Space Oddity', 'The Jean Genie', 'Young Americans', 'Heroes', 'Under Pressure', which he sang with Queen, 'Ziggy Stardust', 'Starman', 'Rebel Rebel', 'Fashion', 'Ashes to Ashes', 'Let's Dance', 'Sound and Vision', 'Modern Love', and 'Changes'.

Bowie was a music legend who over four decades constantly reinvented himself. He will be remembered by many for being theatrical and flamboyant. He was a showman who will inspire generations to come. Major Tom would be proud.

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about David Bowie. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What was David Bowie's real name?
- 2) Name three of Bowie's hits.
- 3) Who was Major Tom?
- 4) Name the 1963 band.
- 5) Name the new album.

Student B questions

- 1) What does 'flamboyant' and 'theatrical' mean?
- 2) What does 'without fuss' mean?
- 3) What was Bowie suffering from?
- 4) How old was Bowie when he died?
- 5) What was the premonition?

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**David Bowie**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Think of three things about **David Bowie – Pre-fame**. Write them below and discuss. (Google it all, if you need to!)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Think of three things about **David Bowie – Personal Life**. Write them below and discuss.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Think of three things about **David Bowie – The Performer**. Write them below and discuss.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Think of three things about **David Bowie – Miscellaneous**. Write them below and discuss.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you got any David Bowie albums or singles?
- 3) What is Bowie's greatest song?
- 4) What is Bowie's finest album?
- 5) What do you think of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars?
- 6) Why is David Bowie such an icon, even today?
- 7) Give three examples of what the world has said about David Bowie?
- 8) Did you know David Bowie used to be in the Konrads?
- 9) Did you ever see David Bowie in concert?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* studio. Today's interview is: *David Bowie*.

- 1) A fan.
- 2) A music journalist.
- 3) A record producer.
- 4) A member of the surviving Konrads.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a coffee shop. Start a conversation about *David Bowie*. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION 1

Group – Discuss the best David Bowie song and album. (*Google them!*) *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION 2

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Other artists and groups who are Rock and Pop legends – who is the best?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Name someone David Bowie has sung with.
- 3) What do you think of David Bowie's new album?
- 4) What inspired David Bowie?
- 5) Will you be buying David Bowie's new album?
- 6) Why was David Bowie a music legend?
- 7) What do you think of Bowie's outrageous costumes?
- 8) Would you like to dress up as Ziggy Stardust?
- 9) What are your best memories of David Bowie?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

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GAP FILL: READING

Remembering David Bowie

Today let's talk about music (1)___ David Bowie. The singer died in New York on the 10th January 2016 at the age of 69 following an 18 month (2)___ with liver cancer.

Bowie had kept his (3)___ a secret from his fans; only his family and a few close friends (4)___ knew. He told them that he wanted to be remembered for the good times and his music. Shortly after his death he was secretly cremated in New York without any of his family or friends present 'without (5)___' – no big show, no fan-fare.

Bowie's new (6)___ *Blackstar* was released just days before his death. It has been described as a memorial for his fans. The song 'Blackstar' is now widely interpreted as a (7)___ of his impending death with the haunting lyrics, 'Look up here, I'm in (8)___'.

heaven / album / premonition / illness / legend / fuss / actually / battle

Following Bowie's death fans have been buying his albums in (1)___ . A quarter of the UK Top 40 Album Chart was soon occupied by the legendary singer and musician. Born David Robert Jones in 1947, he adopted the name David Bowie in 1965. Pre-Bowie in 1963, he was in a band called the Konrads.

Bowie's best known (2)___ was the (3)___ Ziggy Stardust who performed with the Spiders from Mars. Classic Bowie hits include the legendary 'Space Oddity', 'The Jean Genie', 'Young Americans', 'Heroes', 'Under (4)___', which he sang with Queen, 'Ziggy Stardust', 'Starman', 'Rebel Rebel', '(5)___', 'Ashes to Ashes', 'Let's Dance', 'Sound and Vision', 'Modern Love', and 'Changes'.

Bowie was a music legend who over four decades (6)___ reinvented himself. He will be remembered by many for being (7)___ and (8)___ . He was a showman who will inspire generations to come. Major Tom would be proud.

pressure / fictional / constantly / creation / flamboyant / fashion / theatrical / droves

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Remembering David Bowie

Today let's talk about music legend David Bowie. The singer died in New York (1)___ the 10th January 2016 (2)___ the age of 69 following (3)___ 18 month battle with liver cancer.

Bowie had kept his illness a secret from his fans; only his family and (4)___ few close friends actually knew. (5)___ told them that he wanted to be remembered for the good times and his music. Shortly after (6)___ death he was secretly cremated (7)___ New York without any of his family or friends present 'without fuss' – no big show, no fan-fare.

Bowie's new album *Blackstar* was released just days before his death. (8)___ has been described as a memorial for his fans. The song 'Blackstar' is now widely interpreted as a premonition of his impending death with the haunting lyrics, 'Look up here, I'm in heaven'.

it / in / a / an / at / on / he / his

Following Bowie's death fans have been buying (1)___ albums in droves. A quarter of the UK Top 40 Album Chart was soon occupied (2)___ the legendary singer and musician. Born David Robert Jones in 1947, he adopted (3)___ name David Bowie in 1965. Pre-Bowie in 1963, he was in a band called the Konrads.

Bowie's best known creation was the fictional Ziggy Stardust who performed with the Spiders from Mars. Classic Bowie hits include the legendary 'Space Oddity', 'The Jean Genie', 'Young Americans', 'Heroes', 'Under Pressure', which he sang with Queen, 'Ziggy Stardust', 'Starman', 'Rebel Rebel', 'Fashion', 'Ashes to Ashes', 'Let's Dance', 'Sound and Vision', 'Modern Love', (4)___ 'Changes'.

Bowie was a music legend who over four decades constantly reinvented himself. He will be remembered by (5)___ (6)___ being theatrical and flamboyant. He was a showman (7)___ will inspire generations to come. Major Tom (8)___ be proud.

many / would / who / his / for / the / by / and

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

WRITING/SPELLING

Remembering David Bowie

Today let's talk about _____ Bowie. The singer died in New York on the 10th January 2016 at the age of 69 following an 18 month battle with liver cancer. Bowie had kept his illness _____; only his family and a few close friends actually knew. He told them that he wanted to be remembered for the good times and his music. _____ he was secretly cremated in New York without any of his family or friends present 'without fuss' – no big show, no fan-fare.

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Bowie's best known creation was the fictional _____ performed with the Spiders from Mars. Classic Bowie hits include the legendary 'Space Oddity', '_____', 'Young Americans', 'Heroes', 'Under Pressure', which he sang with Queen, 'Ziggy Stardust', 'Starman', 'Rebel Rebel', 'Fashion', 'Ashes to Ashes', 'Let's Dance', 'Sound and Vision', 'Modern Love', and 'Changes'.

Bowie was a music legend who over four decades constantly reinvented himself. He will be remembered by many for being _____. He was a showman who will _____ to come. Major Tom would be proud.

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WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/small groups* – list five David Bowie singles and five albums. Talk about each of them. *5 mins.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) His music _____
- 2) Bowie's best song _____
- 3) David Bowie _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *David Bowie*. Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: *David Bowie*. Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) creation
- 2) heaven
- 3) legendary
- 4) cancer
- 5) illness
- 6) secret
- 7) actually
- 8) knew
- 9) shortly
- 10) memorial

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) death
- 12) quarter
- 13) fictional
- 14) classic
- 15) pressure
- 16) decades
- 17) constantly
- 18) flamboyant
- 19) proud
- 20) generations

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