

# MISSY ELLIOTT

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott was born in Virginia in 1971. She is an award-winning rap artist and probably the greatest ever female rapper. As well as having a string of hit singles and albums, Elliott has also written songs for other top artists, including Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey and Janet Jackson. Elliott's success in the rap industry is nothing short of phenomenal.

Elliott grew up experiencing and witnessing sexual and physical abuse. She lived in fear that her father would beat her mother to death. She found an escape in music. From the age of four she dreamed about stardom. She wrote letters to her hero Michael Jackson every day, asking him to rescue her. She also spent her youth writing song lyrics.

Elliott formed a rap group called Sista with three school friends, which broke up after their record label refused to release their album. She wrote songs and contributed vocals to other artists' songs. The CEO of Elektra Records heard Elliott on Gina Thompson's "The Things That You Do" and knew she was special. She won a contract to run her own record label, GoldMind Inc.

Elliott teamed up with her old friend Timbaland and set the world of rap on fire with her stylish songs and image. Six of her albums would go platinum and she received five Grammy awards for her brilliance. She also produced stars like Madonna and Beyonce. Elliott also has time for charity work, in particular, to highlight domestic violence and teen obesity.

249 words  
Flesch Kinkaid 8.2

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. probably   | a. get away      |
| 2. ever       | b. ill-treatment |
| 3. phenomenal | c. all time      |
| 4. abuse      | d. most likely   |
| 5. escape     | e. fame          |
| 6. stardom    | f. amazing       |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 7. formed      | g. split up      |
| 8. broke up    | h. focus on      |
| 9. run         | i. joined forces |
| 10. teamed up  | j. created       |
| 11. brilliance | k. manage        |
| 12. highlight  | l. talent        |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. probably the greatest            | a. of phenomenal           |
| 2. a string                         | b. on fire                 |
| 3. nothing short                    | c. song lyrics             |
| 4. She found an escape              | d. her own record label    |
| 5. She also spent her youth writing | e. up with her old friend  |
| 6. contributed vocals               | f. ever female rapper      |
| 7. She won a contract to run        | g. in music                |
| 8. Elliott teamed                   | h. and teen obesity        |
| 9. set the world of rap             | i. of hit singles          |
| 10. highlight domestic violence     | j. to other artists' songs |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott was born in Virginia in 1971. She is an award-winning \_\_\_\_\_ probably the greatest ever female rapper. As well as having \_\_\_\_\_ singles and albums, Elliott has also written songs for other top artists, including Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey and Janet Jackson. Elliott's \_\_\_\_\_ industry is \_\_\_\_\_ phenomenal.

Elliott grew up experiencing and witnessing sexual \_\_\_\_\_. She \_\_\_\_\_ her father would beat her mother to death. She found an escape in music. From the age of four she dreamed about stardom. She wrote letters to her hero Michael Jackson every day, asking \_\_\_\_\_. She also spent her \_\_\_\_\_.

Elliott formed a rap group called Sista with three school friends, which \_\_\_\_\_ their record label \_\_\_\_\_ their album. She wrote songs and \_\_\_\_\_ to other artists' songs. The CEO of Elektra Records heard Elliott on Gina Thompson's "The Things That You Do" and knew she was special. She won a contract \_\_\_\_\_ record label, GoldMind Inc.

Elliott \_\_\_\_\_ her old friend Timbaland and set the world \_\_\_\_\_ with her stylish songs and image. Six of her albums \_\_\_\_\_ and she received five Grammy awards for her brilliance. She also produced stars like Madonna and Beyonce. Elliott also has time for charity work, in particular, to highlight domestic violence \_\_\_\_\_.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott was *birth / born* in Virginia in 1971. She is an award-winning rap artist and *probable / probably* the greatest ever female rapper. As well as having a *string / rope* of hit singles and albums, Elliott has also written songs for other top artists, including Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey and Janet Jackson. Elliott's success in the rap industry is nothing *short / tall* of phenomenal.

Elliott grew up experiencing and witnessing sexual and physical *abusive / abuse*. She lived in *fear / afraid* that her father would beat her mother to death. She *found / discover* an escape in music. From the age of four she dreamed about stardom. She wrote letters to her hero Michael Jackson every day, asking him to rescue her. She also spent her *youths / youth* writing song lyrics.

Elliott formed a rap group *calling / called* Sista with three school friends, which broke up after their record *lapel / label* refused to release their album. She wrote songs and *contributed / contribution* vocals to other artists' songs. The CEO of Elektra Records heard Elliott on Gina Thompson's "The Things That You Do" and knew she was *especially / special*. She won a contract to run her own record label, GoldMind Inc.

Elliott teamed *down / up* with her old friend Timbaland and set the world of rap on *fire / fired* with her stylish songs and image. Six of her albums would go platinum and she received five Grammy awards for her *brilliance / brilliant*. She also produced stars like Madonna and Beyonce. Elliott also has time for charity work, in particular, to highlight domestic violence and teen *obese / obesity*.

**SPELLING:**

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

*Paragraph 1*

1. arbyoplb the greatest ever female rapper
2. a srgtni of hit singles
3. the rap yrunidts
4. ohgintn short of phenomenal

*Paragraph 2*

5. sexual and physical uesab
6. She found an spaeec in music
7. asking him to ceuers her
8. song lyrics

*Paragraph 3*

9. Elliott rfmoed a rap group called Sista
10. their record label sfereud to release their album
11. knew she was esacpil
12. She won a rtotccan to run her own record label

*Paragraph 4*

13. Elliott tdaeme up with her old friend Timbaland
14. her sihltys songs and image
15. highlight domestic cnevoile
16. teen seoiytb

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) her hero Michael Jackson every day, asking him to rescue her. She also spent her youth writing song lyrics.
- ( ) Elliott grew up experiencing and witnessing sexual and physical abuse. She lived in fear that her father would beat
- ( **1** ) Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott was born in Virginia in 1971. She is an award-winning rap artist and probably
- ( ) Elliott teamed up with her old friend Timbaland and set the world of rap alight with her stylish songs and
- ( ) brilliance. She also produced stars like Madonna and Beyonce. Elliott also has time for charity
- ( ) image. Six of her albums would go platinum and she received five Grammy awards for her
- ( ) the greatest ever female rapper. As well as having a string of hit singles and albums, Elliott has also written songs for other
- ( ) her mother to death. She found an escape in music. From the age of four she dreamed about stardom. She wrote letters to
- ( ) top artists, including Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey and Janet Jackson. Elliott's success
- ( ) work, in particular, to highlight domestic violence and teen obesity.
- ( ) she was special. She won a contract to run her own record label, GoldMind Inc.
- ( ) Elliott formed a rap group called Sista with three school friends, which broke up after their record
- ( ) of Elektra Records heard Elliott on Gina Thompson's "The Things That You Do" and knew
- ( ) label refused to release their album. She wrote songs and contributed vocals to other artists' songs. The CEO
- ( ) in the rap industry is nothing short of phenomenal.

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. - award an is She artist rap winning

---

2. has other also top written artists songs Elliott for

---

3. short nothing phenomenal of

---

4. fear that her father would beat her mother She lived in

---

5. her spent also She lyrics song writing youth

---

6. other to vocals contributed songs artists'

---

7. run to contract a label record own her

---

8. old her with up teamed Elliott Timbaland friend

---

9. fire the of on set world rap

---

10. obesity teen and violence domestic highlight

---

## MISSY ELLIOTT DISCUSSION:

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Missy Elliott?
2. Would you like to have met Missy Elliott?
3. What would you like to know about Missy Elliott and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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## MISSY ELLIOTT DISCUSSION:

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Missy Elliott?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Missy Elliott?
3. What would her answers have been to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## MISSY ELLIOTT SURVEY:

Write five questions about Missy Elliott in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Missy Elliott. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MISSY ELLIOTT POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Missy Elliott. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Missy Elliott. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she did every day and what she thought about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Missy Elliott. Ask her three questions about her life. Tell her how important she is in today's world and how she is missed. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Missy Elliott expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. probably   | a. most likely   |
| 2. ever       | b. all time      |
| 3. phenomenal | c. amazing       |
| 4. abuse      | d. ill-treatment |
| 5. escape     | e. get away      |
| 6. stardom    | f. fame          |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 7. formed      | g. created       |
| 8. broke up    | h. split up      |
| 9. run         | i. manage        |
| 10. teamed up  | j. joined forces |
| 11. brilliance | k. talent        |
| 12. highlight  | l. focus on      |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. probably the greatest            | a. ever female rapper      |
| 2. a string                         | b. of hit singles          |
| 3. nothing short                    | c. of phenomenal           |
| 4. She found an escape              | d. in music                |
| 5. She also spent her youth writing | e. song lyrics             |
| 6. contributed vocals               | f. to other artists' songs |
| 7. She won a contract to run        | g. her own record label    |
| 8. Elliott teamed                   | h. up with her old friend  |
| 9. set the world of rap             | i. on fire                 |
| 10. highlight domestic violence     | j. and teen obesity        |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.