MARIA CALLAS

http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/m/maria_callas.html

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPXT

Maria Callas was an American-born Greek opera singer, often regarded as the greatest ever soprano. She combined a wonderfully versatile voice with a natural ability for drama. She made opera popular with millions of people and her recordings are studied by budding opera singers today. Callas’ own life has been rich enough to be the subject of an opera.

Callas was born in New York and raised in Greece. Her mother recognized Maria’s singing talents early on. Callas said: "I was made to sing when I was only five, and I hated it." In 1937, a singing tutor in Athens described her voice as being “an amazing phenomenon” that should “shine with all its brilliance”. She studied and sang for ten hours a day.

Callas made her professional debut in Athens in 1942. A critic stated Callas was "an extremely dynamic artist possessing the rarest dramatic and musical gifts". Callas’ career took off in 1946 when she went to Italy. She got increasingly rave reviews. One famous soprano said Callas “opened a new door for...all the singers in the world”. She got the nickname ‘Divina’, the divine one.

In 1965, Callas ended her stage career in London’s Royal Opera House. She was adored by opera enthusiasts worldwide. A famous conductor spoke of her amazing talent: "If the public could understand, as we do, how deeply and utterly musical Callas is, they would be stunned." Callas spent her final years living in isolation in Paris.

245 words
Flesch Kinkaid 8.9
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. regarded
2. versatile
3. budding
4. raised
5. tutor
6. phenomenon

Paragraphs 3 and 4
7. critic
8. dynamic
9. rave
10. adored
11. utterly
12. stunned

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

1. a wonderfully versatile
2. budding
3. Her mother recognized Maria’s
4. I was made to sing when
5. described her voice as being
6. an extremely
7. Callas’ career took
8. She got increasingly rave
9. She was adored by opera
10. Callas spent her final years living

a. singing talents early on
b. enthusiasts worldwide
c. an amazing phenomenon
d. off in 1946
e. voice
f. in isolation
g. I was only five
h. opera singers
i. dynamic artist
j. reviews
LISTENING GAP FILL:

Maria Callas was an American-born Greek opera singer, ________________ the greatest ever soprano. She combined a wonderfully versatile voice with a natural ________________. She made opera popular with millions of people and her recordings are studied ________________ singers today. Callas’ own life has been ________________ the subject of an opera.

Callas was born in New York and raised in Greece. Her mother recognized Maria’s singing ________________. Callas said: "I was ________________ I was only five, and I hated it." In 1937, a singing tutor in Athens described ________________ “an amazing phenomenon” that should “______________ brilliance”. She studied and sang for ten hours a day.

Callas made her professional debut in Athens in 1942. A critic stated Callas was "an extremely dynamic artist possessing ________________ and musical gifts". Callas’ ________________ 1946 when she went to Italy. She got increasingly ________________. One famous soprano said Callas “opened a new door for…all the singers in the world”. She got the nickname ‘Divina’, ________________

In 1965, Callas ________________ in London’s Royal Opera House. She ________________ opera enthusiasts worldwide. A famous conductor spoke of her amazing talent: "If the public could understand, as we do, ________________ musical Callas is, they would be stunned." Callas spent her final years ________________ in Paris.
CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Maria Callas was an American-born Greece / Greek opera singer, often regarded as the greatest ever / even soprano. She combined a wonderfully versatile voice with a natural ability for drama. She made opera popular with millions of people and her recordings are studied by budding / bidding opera singers today. Callas’ own life has been rich / wealthy enough to be the subject of an opera.

Callas was born in New York and risen / raised in Greece. Her mother recognized Maria’s singing talents early off / on. Callas said: "I was made to sing when I was only five, and I hated it." In 1937, a singing tutor / tutorial in Athens described her voice as being “an amazing phenomenon” that should “shiny / shine with all its brilliance”. She studied and sang for ten hours a day.

Callas did / made her professional debut in Athens in 1942. A critic stated Callas was "an extremely dynamic artist possessing the rarest dramatic and musical gifts / presents". Callas’ career took / taken off in 1946 when she went to Italy. She got increasingly rave reviews. One famous soprano said Callas “opening / opened a new door for...all the singers in the world”. She got the nickname ‘Divina’, the divine one.

In 1965, Callas ended her stage career in London’s Royal Opera House. She was adoring / adored by opera enthusiasts worldwide. A famous conductor spoke of her amazing talent: "If the public could understand, as we don’t / do, how deeply and utterly musical Callas is, they would be stunning / stunned." Callas spent her final years living on / in isolation in Paris.
SPELLING:
These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1
1.  rdergdea as the greatest ever soprano
2.  a natural ltibyia for drama
3.  her sogndrreci are studied by budding opera singers
4.  the icubets of an opera

Paragraph 2
5.  born in New York and iseadr in Greece
6.  singing urtot
7.  an inazmag phenomenon
8.  shine with all its liclbeainr

Paragraph 3
9.  Callas made her professional udbte
10. an extremely miyadcn artist
11. She got increasingly rave vsrieew
12. She got the ancekni ‘Divina’

Paragraph 4
13. Callas ended her stage errca
14. She was eoddar by opera enthusiasts worldwide
15. they would be nsutden
16. Callas snpet her final years living in isolation
Portray the text back together

Number these lines in the correct order.

( ) adored by opera enthusiasts worldwide. A famous conductor spoke of her amazing talent: "If the public
( ) soprano. She combined a wonderfully versatile voice with a natural ability for drama. She made opera popular with
( ) In 1965, Callas ended her stage career in London’s Royal Opera House. She was
( ) Callas was born in New York and raised in Greece. Her mother recognized Maria’s singing talents early on. Callas said:
( ) own life has been rich enough to be the subject of an opera.
( ) Callas made her professional debut in Athens in 1942. A critic stated Callas was "an extremely dynamic artist possessing
( ) millions of people and her recordings are studied by budding opera singers today. Callas’
( ) could understand, as we do, how deeply and utterly musical Callas is, they
( ) singers in the world”. She got the nickname ‘Divina’, the divine one.
(1) Maria Callas was an American-born Greek opera singer, often regarded as the greatest ever
( ) being “an amazing phenomenon” that should “shine with all its brilliance”. She studied and sang for ten hours a day.
( ) would be stunned." Callas spent her final years living in isolation in Paris.
( ) "I was made to sing when I was only five, and I hated it." In 1937, a singing tutor in Athens described her voice as
( ) the rarest dramatic and musical gifts". Callas’ career took off in 1946 when she went to Italy. She got increasingly rave
( ) reviews. One famous soprano said Callas ‘opened a new door for...all the
SCRAMBLED SENTENCES
With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. regarded the ever often as greatest soprano

2. people of millions to popular opera made She

3. early talents singing Maria’s recognized mother Her on

4. when only was sing was I to I five made

5. a sang day for She ten studied hours and

6. off in 1946 when she went to Italy Callas’ career took

7. opened Callas world the in singers the all for door new a

8. one the ‘Divina’ divine got the She nickname ,

9. talent amazing her of spoke conductor famous A

10. final her spent Callas isolation in living years
MARIA CALLAS DISCUSSION:
STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Maria Callas?
2. Would you like to have met Maria Callas?
3. What would you like to know about Maria Callas and why?
4. _____________________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________________
6. _____________________________________________________
7. _____________________________________________________
8. _____________________________________________________

MARIA CALLAS DISCUSSION:
STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Maria Callas?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Maria Callas?
3. What would her answers have been to those questions?
4. _____________________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________________
6. _____________________________________________________
7. _____________________________________________________
8. _____________________________________________________
MARIA CALLAS SURVEY:
Write five questions about Maria Callas 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT 1</td>
<td>STUDENT 2</td>
<td>STUDENT 3</td>
<td>STUDENT 1</td>
<td>STUDENT 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.
WRITING:
Write about Maria Callas for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.
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 Maria Callas. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MARIA CALLAS POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Maria Callas. 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 Maria Callas. 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 Maria Callas. Ask her three questions about her life. Tell her how important she is in today’s world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your “Maria Callas expert” partner(s) will try and answer your questions.
ANSWERS

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ALL OTHER EXERCISES
Look at the text on page 2.