

THEME 2 HOBBIES AND INTERESTS READING SKILL (SPICE UP)

A. Read the text and underline the sentences which mention Steven Spielberg's past abilities.

The Whizz-Kid: Steven Spielberg

When Steven was a little boy, his school life was an uphill struggle. Due to his dyslexia, he was notably slow when it came to reading and writing. Compared to his peers, he was an introverted and quiet kid. In his free time, he preferred to watch TV alone rather than hang out with friends. As he became a teenager, Steven discovered a pastime that would change his life forever. Maths and long articles were beyond him, but he could make movies. He was gifted in recording motion pictures and creating stories with them. What he liked most was spending time with filming tools. He could shoot 8mm short films with his father's camera. Making short films and winning a prestigious filmmaking award at the age of 13 were actual proofs of his brilliance. He could also cash in on his filming talents at an early age. Often, he screened his films in a local diner with a film projector, charging 25 cents per person.

Just three years after winning his first award, he wrote and directed his first feature-length film, Firelight. By the age of 17, he had four movies. Today, Steven says remembering those days, "I found a way to accept myself in my own life by making movies. I found that I could do something well."

After high school, he wanted to study filmmaking. He applied to the University of Southern California, School of Theatre, where his application was rejected twice. This rejection was never a letdown for Steven. He preferred pursuing his dreams to giving up. He soon began working as an unpaid intern at film studios and continued to make films throughout his career. Among his many best-known films are Jaws, Indiana Jones, Jurassic Park. His alien film, E.T., was regarded as one of the greatest movies ever made.

Eventually, Steven Spielberg, who experienced difficulties in his school life, has become one of the most unique film directors of all time.

B. Guess the meaning of the words in the text and choose the correct option.

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| 1. uphill struggle | a) rest | b) challenge |
| 2. beyond | a) out of reach | b) within reach |
| 3. gifted | a) talented | b) incapable |
| 4. cash in on | a) spend money for | b) make money from |
| 5. letdown | a) disappointment | b) satisfaction |
| 6. pursuing | a) quitting | b) following |

C. Read the text again and write true (T) or false (F).

1. Steven's learning issues had no effect on his academic success. _____
2. Learning how to use a camera has entirely changed his life. _____
3. He released his movies in a restaurant and earned money. _____
4. He didn't have a big success in filming until he was 19. _____
5. As he wasn't accepted to university, he started working right away. _____
6. His poor living conditions prevented Steven's success. _____

D. Read the dialogue below and tick (✓) the correct statements.

Jason: Hey, Emily. What a nice surprise to see you in the gym!

Emily: Ha-ha! Do you mean I can't do any sports?

Jason: No, not at all. I sometimes see you on the tennis court, but I wasn't expecting to see you here doing weightlifting.

Emily: Well, actually I used to be a couch potato. One day, I got roller skates for my 15th birthday. Since then, I've become a sports fan. By the way, how about attending the tennis tournament together?

Jason: OK. Why not? By the way, I saw your name on the poster for the school concert. Can you play musical instruments, too?

Emily: Yes. I started playing the piano when I was six. I could also play the guitar when I was in primary school.

Jason: Wow, that's amazing! I'm interested in music, too. I've been taking drum lessons since last month.

Emily: Sounds great!

1. Emily is unable to join in any sporting activities.
2. Jason is a tennis player who can compete in the school tournament.
3. Emily was a brilliant guitar player when she was a little girl.
4. Jason couldn't play the drums until this year.