



MICHAEL JACKSON – EXTRA

Level 3

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least three years and up to four years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level B1. Suitable for users of TEAM magazine.

SYNOPSIS

Michael Jackson tells the story of the world-famous American singer's turbulent life and career up to his sudden death in 2009.

The story starts in the 1960s. Michael's father, Joe Jackson, recognised his children's musical talent and The Jackson 5 was born, made up of eight-year-old Michael and his four older brothers. In 1968, The Jackson 5 were given a recording contract by Motown Records. The band was hugely successful, with their first three hits all making number one in the charts. By the time he was a teenager, Michael was also recording his own solo albums for Motown, although he was given very little creative freedom.

In 1978, Michael worked with producer Quincy Jones on a new solo album – *Off the Wall*. The album was a huge worldwide success, and was followed in 1981 by the *Thriller* album, which went on to become the best-selling album of all time. Over the next two decades, *Bad*, *Dangerous*, *HIStory* and *Invincible* albums followed all selling millions of copies.

Fame brought many difficulties for Michael Jackson. His unusual behaviour and lifestyle, along with his ever-changing physical appearance, spawned countless stories in the press, earning him the tabloid name of 'Wacko Jacko'.

In 1994, he married Elvis Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie, but the marriage lasted less than two years. Two years later, Michael Jackson married again – this time to his nurse, Debbie Rowe, who was pregnant with his first child, Prince Michael. In 1998, the couple had a second child, Paris. The marriage was widely seen

as one of convenience, and they divorced in 1999. A third child – Blanket – came in 2002 but the mother's identity remained secret.

Michael Jackson's close friendships with children, some of whom were invited to his Neverland ranch for sleepovers, caused huge controversy. In 2005 he was accused of child abuse and taken to court, but was later acquitted. By this stage, Michael Jackson was no longer making new music. Along with huge financial problems, he also had a dangerous addiction to prescription drugs.

On the 25th June, 2009, Michael Jackson died of a heart attack, just a month before he was due to give a series of concerts in London. He was 50 years old.

MEDIA LINKS

Film/TV: In 2009, the film *This is it!* was released showing Michael Jackson's last days rehearsing for his tour in London.

Interviews with Martin Bashir and Oprah Winfrey can be sourced from YouTube.

CD: A recording of *Michael Jackson* is available to accompany the Scholastic Reader. All of Michael Jackson's music is available on DVD or as downloads.

Internet: For more information, visit the official Michael Jackson website at www.michaeljackson.com.

Books: There are numerous biographies about Michael Jackson. Michael Jackson's autobiography *Moonwalk* is also available in the United States, Canada, England, Germany and France.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right book for your class? How much of Michael Jackson's music do they know? What do they already know about his life, and what would they like to find out? Motivate them with background information and by reading aloud page 6 of the book.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self-Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All answers on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *Michael Jackson* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet). Put them into context. Ask students to look out for them as they read.

Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. These provide background information about child stars and the problems they sometimes face; the history of black artists in the American music business and the effect Michael Jackson had; reactions to the shocking news of Michael Jackson's death.

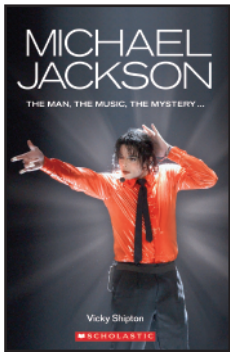
What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *Michael Jackson*. Did they like it? Compare opinions. Did they find out anything new about him? Do they like him more or less now? Will they buy any of his music? Did you like it? Let us know at readers@link2english.com.

COMPETITIONS AND UPDATES

Check www.scholasticelreaders.com for competitions and other activities related to the Scholastic Readers.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



MICHAEL JACKSON

– EXTRA

People and places

1 Answer the questions.

- a) When did Michael Jackson die? 2009
- b) How many times was he married?
- c) In which year did Michael first get married?
- d) What big city is near Gary?
- e) How old was Michael when he moved to California?
- f) What is Neverland?

2 Work with a partner. Look at the people in Michael's life. In which photo do you think Michael looks happiest? Why, do you think?

Chapters 1–2

1 Put these events in the right order.

- a) Jackie, Tito and Jermaine practised their music after school.
- b) The Jackson 5 joined Motown Records.
- c) Michael Jackson recorded his first solo record.
- d) Joe Jackson became manager of The Jackson 5.
- e) The Jackson 5 left Motown Records.
- f) The Jackson 5 had a hit with 'I Want You Back'.
- g) Michael Jackson went to live with Diana Ross.
- h) Joe Jackson got angry with Berry Gordy and Motown.

2 Complete the sentences.

- a) Berry Gordy i) was Jermaine's wife.
- b) Diana Ross ii) was the head of Motown Records.
- c) Hazel Jackson iii) was like a second mother to Michael.
- d) 'Ben' iv) was the youngest Jackson brother.
- e) Randy Jackson v) was the first lead singer of The Jackson 5.
- f) Jermaine Jackson vi) was a pet rat.

Chapters 3–4

1 Match the songs and the descriptions.

- a) Michael cried at the end of this song. i) 'Thriller'
- b) This song was about a girl who says the singer is her baby's father. ii) 'The Girl Is Mine'
- c) Michael sang this with Paul McCartney. iii) 'She's Out of My Life'
- d) The video for this was a 14-minute scary movie. iv) 'Billie Jean'

2 Answer the questions.

- a) What was Michael wearing on the front of *Off the Wall*?
He was wearing a black dinner suit.
- b) On what part of his body did Michael Jackson have plastic surgery?
.....
- c) Why didn't Quincy Jones think that the *Thriller* album would be as big as *Off the Wall*?
.....
- d) Why didn't Michael's church leaders like the video for 'Thriller'?
.....
- e) What awards did Michael Jackson receive in 1984?
.....
- f) When did Michael Jackson perform the moonwalk for the first time?
.....
- g) Why did Michael Jackson make an advert for Pepsi-Cola?
.....

Chapters 5–6

1 Circle the mistakes in these sentences. Write the correct sentences in your notebook.

- a) People said that Michael used a special oxygen machine to help live longer him (sleep).
- b) Michael made a short sci-fi film called *Captain Thriller*.
- c) British newspapers had a new name for Michael – 'Tacko Wacko'.
- d) The video for 'Bad' cost five million dollars to make and many people thought it was really cool.
- e) Michael's called his new home 'Neverland' because he never wanted to leave it.
- f) Michael Jackson met Jordie Chandler at one of his concerts.
- g) Michael told Oprah Winfrey that he had had lots of friends when he was a child in The Jackson 5.

2 Match the dates with the facts.

1987	1988	1991	1992	1993
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- a) 'Black or White' was a number one hit. 1991
- b) Oprah Winfrey came to Neverland.
- c) Michael released *Bad*.
- d) Michael met twelve-year-old Jordie Chandler.
- e) Michael bought his own house.

3 Talk to a partner. Think about famous people who are in the newspapers a lot. Are all the stories about them true, do you think? Why are people interested in reading about them?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Chapter 7

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences in your notebook.

- a) Michael Jackson asked Lisa Marie Presley to marry him over the phone. T
- b) Lisa Marie's mother was a famous singer.
- c) Michael was sad that he didn't have a big wedding with Lisa Marie.
- d) Lisa Marie wanted to have children with Michael.
- e) The single 'Scream' was a message to Lisa Marie.
- f) Michael's first son was called Prince Michael I.
- g) Michael was very much in love with Debbie Rowe.

2 Circle the correct words in italics.

- a) Lisa Marie Presley met Michael when she was *twelve* / six years old.
- b) Lisa Marie and Michael's marriage ended after *nine* / *nineteen* months.
- c) Michael kissed Lisa Marie during the *MTV Music Awards* / *Grammies*.
- d) Michael sang 'Scream' with his sister *LaToya* / *Janet*.
- e) Michael had *three* / *two* children with Debbie Rowe.
- f) Michael second son was called *Blanket* / *Paris*.
- g) Michael's last studio album *Invincible* sold more than *one million* / *eight million* copies around the world.

Chapters 8–9

1 Look at these people. How did Michael Jackson know them? What problems were there between Michael Jackson and these people? Write the answers in your notebook.

- a) Sheikh Abdullah b) Martin Bashir
- c) Gavin Arvizo d) Dr Conrad Murray

a) *Sheikh Abdullah was Michael Jackson's business partner for a short time. He gave Michael seven million dollars but Michael decided that he didn't want to work with him. Three years later, the sheikh wanted the money back. He said it had never been a gift. Their lawyers had to reach an agreement.*

2 In the last years of his life, Michael Jackson had terrible problems. He was taken to court, he lost his home, he had big money problems and he was addicted to strong painkillers. Why did these things happen, do you think? Talk to a partner.

FINAL TASKS

1 Choose an important day in Michael's life. Write a blog entry for Michael Jackson on that day.

2 What were the good things that happened to Michael in his life? What do you think were the bad things in Michael's life? Make lists.

3 Plan an album of the best Michael Jackson songs. Which ten songs will you choose? Talk to a partner. Has he or she chosen the same songs?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Choose the correct word from the 'New Words' in your reader.

- 1. You find this in an art museum. *statue*
- 2. You find this in the air.
- 3. A singer might win this.
- 4. A singer stands on this at a concert.
- 5. A police officer would do this to a criminal.
- 6. A record with just one song.
- 7. These appear on TV and try to make you spend money.
- 8. This takes place in a church.
- 9. A record with several songs on it.
- 10. A place where musicians record music.

2 Complete these sentences.

- 1. 'I'd like a *career* in the music business when I finish university.'
- 2. Don't start smoking – it's very easy to become
- 3. There are lots of bones in a human
- 4. The accident happened because the car was
- 5. The reporter asked a lot of questions in the
- 6. He looked very different after he had on his face.
- 7. She loves to sing and dance and in front of a crowd.
- 8. The singer left the band and became a artist.
- 9. I'm going to practise hard and win the
- 10. You must study hard to become a

Casual language

- **'in big trouble'** (p.7). The Jackson children are 'in big trouble' with their father. We say this when someone has done something wrong and another person is not happy about it.
- **'on their way'** (p.10). We say this when a group of people are beginning to succeed in their career.
- **'... or what?'** (p.34). We use this to make our meaning stronger. The newspaper says 'Is this guy strange, or what?' It means that they think Michael Jackson is very strange.
- **'Go ahead!'** (p.43). We say this when we are allowing people to do (or continue doing) something.
- **'This is it!'** (p.52). We say this when we are doing something for the last time.

Complete the sentences with the Casual language expressions.

- 1. I'm taking my final exam today.
- 2. A: Can I borrow your bike, please?
B:
- 3. I can't believe the temperature. Is it hot today
- 4. Their first album has sold well. This band are really
- 5. If the police catch him, he'll be

MEMORIES OF MICHAEL (pages 56–7)

Quiz

Ask students what their memories of Michael Jackson were? Which songs, dances and videos do they remember best? Which aspects of his personal life do they remember? Put students into small groups. Ask them to write ten questions about Michael Jackson, based on their memories of his life and music, as well as using information in the reader to help them. Each group circulates and asks other groups their questions. The group with the most correct answers wins.

Creative writing

At Michael Jackson's memorial service Queen Latifah read out a poem which was written about him. Ask your students to write a short poem or song about Michael Jackson or another performer who they admire.

BLACK OR WHITE? (pages 58–9)

Research

Students work in groups. Ask them to find out more about one of the African-American artists in the Fact File, e.g. Sammy Davis Jr; Diana Ross and the Supremes; Marvin Gaye; Stevie Wonder. What were their lives like? What music did they record? Together each group writes a short Fact File on their chosen artist and presents it to the class. If possible, students should try to source a song by the artist to play to the rest of the class.

Discussion: The 'Colour Barrier'

Open up a class discussion about the 'colour barrier'. Ask students to think about other industries where a colour barrier could be said to exist (e.g. politics, sports, film etc.). Which famous people do they know who have broken through it, as Michael Jackson did?

CHILD STARS: TOO FAMOUS TOO YOUNG? (pages 60–1)

Debate

"Children should not be able to begin singing or acting careers until they are sixteen years old."

Write this sentence on the board and tell your class that they are going to debate this issue. Begin by brainstorming names of famous actors or singers who have been or are child stars. Then, divide the class into small groups, each one either for or against the motion. Each group writes down their ideas and nominates a spokesperson to present their ideas. Chair the debate, allowing each group to speak in turn. Once all lines of argument have been presented, the students vote independently.

CD FOLLOW-UP

Prediction

At the start of each chapter in the Michael Jackson reader, there is a short section which sets the scene. Play one of these sections and ask students to predict what aspects of Michael Jackson's life they expect to hear about in the chapter. Students check to see if their predictions were correct. What new information did they find out?

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 62–4)

- 1 a) talented b) manager c) awards d) studio e) album f) single g) career h) competition i) surgery j) rat k) solo l) stage m) performance n) addicted to o) control
- 2 a) 1958 b) two c) Paris d) Gary, Indiana
- 3 a) F. He was an unhappy child b) F. His family were poor. c) F. It was Joe Jackson. d) T e) F. He didn't want them to write their own songs. f) F. He was practising dance moves for a concert.

- 4 Open answers.
- 5 a) lawyer b) statue c) skeleton
- 6 a) advert b) interview c) oxygen d) chimpanzee
- 7 The correct order is: b, f, c, h, e, g, a, d.
- 8 a) ii b) i) c) iv) d) iii e) v)
- 9 Open answers.
- 10 a) service b) arrest c) court
- 11 Open answers.
- 12 a) Michael Jackson in court b) Lisa Marie Presley in an interview c) Michael's manager after the court case d) Paris Jackson at the service e) Michael Jackson after he held Blanket out of the hotel window f) Michael Jackson in London
- 13 a) Dominican Republic b) MTV Music Awards c) Berlin d) London e) Los Angeles
- 14 Open answers.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- 1 b) twice c) 1994 d) Chicago e) eleven f) Michael's home in California

Chapters 1–2

- 1 The correct order is: a, d, b, g, f, c, h, e.
- 2 b) iii c) i d) vi e) iv f) v

Chapters 3–4

- 1 b) iv c) ii d) i
- 2 b) On his nose c) He thought that people were buying fewer records in general. d) They didn't think a video about dead people who came back to life sent out a good message. e) He won eight Grammys, as well as an award from US President Ronald Reagan. f) At the Motown Records TV show. g) Pepsi-Cola were paying for the The Jacksons tour.

Chapters 5–6

- 1 b) Michael made a short sci-fi film called *Captain EO*. c) British newspapers had a new name for Michael – 'Wacko Jacko'. d) The video for 'Bad' cost two million dollars to make and many people laughed at it. e) Michael called his new home 'Neverland' after a place in the children's book, *Peter Pan*. f) Michael Jackson met Jordie Chandler at Jordie's father's garage. g) Michael told Oprah Winfrey that he had been a lonely child.
- 2 b) 1993 c) 1987 d) 1992 e) 1988
- 3 Open answers.

Chapter 7

- 1 b) F. Lisa Marie's father, Elvis, was a famous singer. c) T d) F. She wanted to wait. e) F. It was a message to the reporters who wrote untrue stories about him. f) T g) F. Love played no part in their arrangement.
- 2 b) nineteen c) MTV Music Awards d) Janet e) two f) Blanket g) eight million

Chapters 8–9

- 1 b) Michael Jackson invited Martin Bashir to come and make a film about him at Neverland. The film showed Michael Jackson with children at Neverland, including Gavin Arvizo. It didn't show Michael in a good way. After the film was shown on TV, a doctor called the LA police and later, Michael was arrested. c) Gavin Arvizo had been very sick and he had stayed at Neverland. Gavin's family told the police that there was something wrong with Gavin and Michael's friendship. Michael Jackson was taken to court. d) Dr Conrad Murray was Michael Jackson's private doctor. On the last day of Michael's life, Dr Murray agreed to give him a very strong painkiller called propofol. Michael Jackson died a few hours later.
- 2 Open answers.

Vocabulary Builder

1. oxygen 3. award 4. stage 5. arrest 6. single 7. advert 8. service 9. album 10. studio
2. addicted 3. skeleton 4. out of control 5. interview 6. plastic surgery 7. perform 8. solo 9. competition 10. lawyer

Casual language

1. This is it! 2. Go ahead. 3. or what? 4. on their way 5. in big trouble