

Muhammad Ali

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While reading

Pages 1–7

1 Write the questions.

Cassius Clay: Excuse me. **a)**

Joe Martin?

Joe Martin: Yes, that's me. **b)**

Cassius Clay: My name's Cassius Clay and I'm very angry!

Joe Martin: **c)**

Cassius Clay: Because my bike was in front of this building and now it's not there! I'm going to find that boy with MY bike.

Joe Martin: **d)**

Cassius Clay: I'm going to 'whup' him.

Joe Martin: **e)**

Cassius Clay: No, I can't box.

Joe Martin: Well then. I'm going to teach you how to box.

2 Match A and B.

A

1 Cassius Clay is strong and quick on his feet,

2 Cassius Clay wasn't a good student,

3 Cassius Clay was friendly,

4 Cassius Clay wants to be a world champion,

5 In Louisville there were places for white people only,

B

a so his teachers liked him.**b** so black people didn't sit with them.**c** so white people are going to sit with him.**d** so he usually wins his fights.**e** so he had a lot of problems at school.

3 Write about Cassius Clay in Rome.

Cassius Clay was in Rome for the Olympic Games. He **a)** every opponent. He**b)** an Olympic medal for the United States. He was an Olympic boxing **c)**After the Olympic Games Cassius Clay started to **d)** for money. Boxing was his work now, not a **e)** he played.

4 Put these in the right place. Write the numbers 1–8.

a The fight is on February 25, 1964. ☐**b** Clay dances across the ring but Liston can't catch him. ☐**c** Liston does not move from his chair. ☐**d** Liston is strong and big, but he can't hit Cassius Clay. ☐**e** Liston is very tired. ☐**f** Cassius Clay wants to be world champion, so he fights Sonny Liston. ☐**g** Cassius starts to dance, so Liston can't hit him. ☐**h** Cassius Clay tells the newspaper men they were wrong. ☐**i** The newspapers say 'Liston is going to win the fight.' ☐**j** Liston's face is red and one eye is closing. ☐

Pages 7–14

While reading

5 Put the names in the right place.

Sonny Liston Joe Frazier

George Foreman Leon Spinks

1 Ali lost a fight with in Las Vegas in 1978. Ali beat him seven months later.

2 won an Olympic medal in Tokyo in 1964. Ali fought with him in 1971 and 1974. He lost one fight and won one fight. He was not the world champion after the fights.

3 Ali fought with after his visit to Egypt and beat him in the first round. He was the world boxing champion now.

4 Ali and fought in Africa. It was hot and Ali tried a new game. He won the fight.

6 Answer the questions.

1 What was it like in the streets of Kinshasa?

2 What did Ali's doctor say to him in 1981?

3 Where does Ali live now?

4 How does he feel now?

5 Why do people call him a people's champion?

After reading

7 **Work in pairs.** A reporter interviews Ali after his fight against Foreman. Ali explains his strategy for the fight.

Reporter: That was a very good fight! Why did you stop dancing?

Ali: It was very hot and I was tired.

8 **Write the important events in Cassius Clay's life. Have students describe each of the events.**

1954: Cassius Clay starts to box.

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1 Five things are wrong. Find them and make them right.

Muhammad Ali is the story of an Australian boxer. He was world champion when he was twenty years old. At first his real name was Cassius Clay. His new name was Muhammad Ali because he wanted a longer name. His family was not happy about this because they were Christians. Then, the U.S. government sent the army to Vietnam. Ali did not go so he did not box in the U.S. or in other countries. He stayed at home and got a little money. In 1971 he boxed again, but the new Olympic champion, George Foreman, was strong and quick. Ali had a difficult fight.

2 Who says this? Write the names.

The U.S. government Cassius Clay
Ali's father white people Joe Martin

- 'Come here to the gym first.'
- 'Close that big mouth for him.'
- 'It's Muhammad Ali.'
- 'It's a good name.'
- 'Go into the army or go to jail.'

3 Look at this picture and answer the questions



- Who is Cassius's Clay opponent?
- Where is he?
- Who is Cassius Clay talking to?
- What is he saying and why?
- Are the black men in the photo happy? Why?

4 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- Ali did not go to Vietnam because he did not want to kill people.
- The government did not send Ali to jail.

- The first fight with Joe Frazier in 1971 was easy for Ali and he won.
- Ali beat Frazier in 1974, and he was the world champion.
- Ali fought George Foreman in Zaire. This was good because the people in Zaire loved Ali.
- Ali got sick and stopped boxing in 1981.
- Ali teaches children to box.
- There aren't any children in Ali's family.
- Ali was world champion three times in fourteen years.

5 The Big Fight: what is the right answer?

- Africans loved Ali because ...
 - he was black.
 - he wanted peace in Vietnam.
 - he was a good boxer.
- George Foreman was ...
 - younger than Ali.
 - slow and heavy.
 - older than Ali.
- Ali can't dance for fifteen rounds because ...
 - he is sick.
 - Foreman is big and strong.
 - it is very hot, and Foreman is quick.
- Ali is going to play a new game:
 - he is going to make Foreman tired.
 - he is going to dance more quickly.
 - he is going to hit Foreman with big, heavy punches.
- Ali wins the fight in round 8 because ...
 - he is very hot and tired.
 - Foreman is on the floor and can't stand up.
 - he wants to be the world champion.

6 Match the names and the words.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 "Cash" Clay | a "The fighting in Vietnam is wrong." |
| 2 U.S. government | b "Dance, Ali! Dance! Don't stop moving." |
| 3 Muhammad Ali | c "What's wrong with the name Clay?" |
| 4 People in Zaire | d "Ali! Bomaye!" |
| 5 People at the big fight | e "Go into the army, or go to jail." |