

# Unit 7 Reading Worksheet 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1 Read the title, look at the photos and tick (✓) the words you might find in the article.

danger ☐

difficult ☐

important ☐

talent ☐

respect ☐

mistakes ☐

success ☐

reasons ☐

amazing ☐

sad ☐

## What Are our Heroes Like?

In general, human beings value certain characteristics in others: confidence, the ability to tell great stories, good listening skills or a gentle manner. We call these people charismatic, and they can easily become the centre of attention in groups. However, when it comes to describing our heroes, we usually look for different qualities. These might include enhanced intelligence, bravery, having a special talent, perseverance, moral character or the

whose qualities we value, or who have (or had) accomplishments we consider important.

Think about your personal heroes. Sometimes you will find that some of their qualities make their faults seem unimportant. **Reportedly**, Amelia Earhart (the first woman to fly over the Atlantic) was a bit stubborn; but people focused on her accomplishments, as well as on how courageous and independent she was. Focusing on the success of a person or their positive characteristics can be a constructive influence: our heroes become our inspiration, and admiring them can help us **develop** certain qualities in order to reach our goals. But there is a definite need to analyse the reason behind our admiration. When admiration happens for the wrong reasons it can generate frustration and it may even become counterproductive. Think about young people whose 'heroes' are supermodels that perpetuate a body image that is unhealthy.



Or people that follow controversial leaders **blindly** without analysing the consequences of the acts they are asked to commit as many of Hitler followers did.

There is nothing wrong with admiring success or the things that we wish we could have: money, power, a certain type of look, a talent, etc. What is dangerous is blind admiration that leads to negative feelings or consequences. Let us analyse who our personal heroes are, why we value them and what impact they have got in our life. If the impact is negative, it might be time to look for a new hero.



ability to **overcome** harsh situations. Our heroes are generally the people

2 Read again and match the sentence halves.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Charismatic people are generally                | a. brave aviator.                                       |
| 2. A hero might be                                 | b. have got damaging feelings.                          |
| 3. Even if heroes have got great qualities,        | c. confident, good at listening and polite.             |
| 4. Amelia Earhart was a                            | d. they are not perfect.                                |
| 5. Positive personal heroes                        | e. will be good role models.                            |
| 6. Blind admiration can cause people to            | f. avoid negative consequences.                         |
| 7. Reflecting on who we admire and why, is good to | g. brilliant, gifted, able to get through difficulties. |



3 Stop and Think! What are the characteristics of your personal hero?

## Glossary

### overcome:

to deal with a problem or feeling

**harsh:** severe, extremely difficult

### reportedly:

according to what some say

### develop:

to grow, to improve

### blindly:

uncritically, with no questions