

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Your friend has sent you a news feature about celebrities who used to be bullied at school. Read the news feature.

Text 1 News feature

Bullying happened to them too!

① The lives of celebrities may be glamorous. However, the fact is that even famous figures were once victims of bullying before they rose to fame.

② Famous singer-songwriter Justin Timberlake grew up in Tennessee. Most boys there played sport.

5 However, unlike other boys, he was interested in drama and music. His peers thought he was strange. They insulted him by calling him a sissy. They did everything to make him feel like he was an outcast. Feeling annoyed and frustrated, he told his mother about his
10 hurtful experience. 'My mother taught me that I shouldn't be afraid of being different. Being different meant you can actually make a difference,' said Timberlake when he received the Innovator Award at the iHeartRadio Music Awards in 2015. His mother's
15 words were a great encouragement to him.



③ Timberlake is not the only celebrity who suffered enormously from bullying at school. Tom Holland is the rising actor who played the iconic role of Spider-Man in 2017. He talked about being picked on for his love of
20 ballet in his recent interview with *People*. Holland was a talented dancer in his younger years. Sadly, he was bullied for being passionate about dancing at school. However, that did not stop him from performing. He became the lead in *Billy Elliot the Musical*.



Oxford English (Second Edition) 1B

Further simplified reading and comprehension

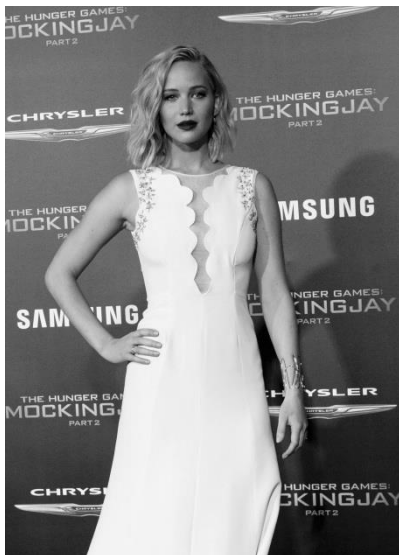
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Unit 8

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

- 25 ④ Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence was also bullied as a child. She told *The Sun* that her classmates were mean to her. Throughout her childhood, she had to change schools frequently just to stay away from the bullies. It got better when she entered secondary school. However, she recalled one girl asking her to hand out invitation cards to a birthday party that she was not invited to. She did not give two hoots about it though.
- 30 She just threw them all into the rubbish bin.

- ⑤ Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift told *Teen Vogue* that she was suddenly singled out by her classmates. This was because they thought it was weird that she loved country music. Thanks to these miserable experiences, she found the motivation to work hard and managed to write many record-breaking hits early on in her career.



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Comprehension 1 *Your friend wants to know more about the celebrities mentioned in the news feature. Answer her questions using information from the news feature. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 Who do 'famous figures' (lines 1 & 2) refer to?

2 How was Justin Timberlake different from his peers?

A He sang better than his peers.

B He was interested in drama and music.

C He was interested in sport.

A B C D

D He was popular in class.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3 i) What did Timberlake's peers do to him?

ii) How did Timberlake feel?

4 Complete the sentence.

Timberlake's mother taught him that _____

_____.

5 Apart from acting, what else is Tom Holland good at?

6 What does 'that' (line 23) refer to?

7 Which of the following is the reason why Taylor Swift could not get along with her classmates?

A She needed to change schools from time to time.

B She was too shy to talk to her classmates.

C She and her classmates did not have common interests.

A B C D

D Her classmates were very talented in music.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8 Find a word in paragraph 5 that means 'very unhappy'.

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- 9 According to paragraphs 2–5, are the following statements **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Given (NG)**?

Statements	T	F	NG
i) Justin Timberlake and Tom Holland revealed their childhood bullying in the same interview.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) Jennifer Lawrence changed schools three times.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Taylor Swift thought her bullying experiences made her stronger.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 10 According to the news feature, what did the celebrities have in common?

- 11 Using information from paragraphs 2–5, match each person with one of the quotes below. Choose from A–D and write the letter in the box next to each person.

Quotes	
A	'There will always be mean people, but you can choose how you respond to them.'
B	'I was bullied for dancing, but they could never stop me from doing what I love to do.'
C	'I'm so glad that I didn't give up country music just because the bullies said that it was weird.'
D	'You don't need to be scared of being different. It's what makes us unique!'

Justin
Timberlake

Tom
Holland

Jennifer
Lawrence

Taylor
Swift

- 12 Find words or phrases from Text 1 with these meanings.

- i) the state of being known and talked about by many people (n., paragraph 1) _____
- ii) a person who is not accepted by other people (n., paragraph 2) _____
- iii) not care (idm., paragraph 4) _____
- iv) chosen from a group for special attention (phr. v., paragraph 5) _____