



INGLÉS

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN YOUR ANSWER SHEET

Susan Boyle: an unlikely superstar?

Less than a few weeks ago Susan Boyle was a virtual unknown. However, since auditioning for Britain's Got Talent, a televised talent competition, she has experienced a stratospheric rise to fame. A YouTube video of her audition has been watched by more than 26 million people, making it one of the most watched videos on the internet in recent times. It is undeniable that technology such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter has helped **to spread the word** about Susan's performance.

So just what is it about Susan that the people find so fascinating? Arguably, it is the fact she is such **a class act**. However, many have suggested that her biggest appeal lies in her unassuming persona. Susan's persona and appearance have been somewhat controversial and the initial reaction to her audition has made many people question whether they are guilty of **judging a book by its cover**. With her **plain Jane**, middle-aged looks and her no-nonsense approach to life, Susan is perhaps the most unlikely star to be discovered of late.

Commenting on her rise to fame, Max Clifford, a renowned PR guru, said that the massive public interest in her is partly due to people having to challenge their own assumptions and prejudices.

So what's next for Susan? For the moment, she is preparing for her next appearance on Britain's Got Talent and she is the **odds-on favourite** to win.

Looking forward, with talk of record contracts and celebrity duets, it is very likely that we'll soon be seeing a Susan Boyle album in the charts!

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer. (1 mark)

1. Susan Boyle is a long-established British superstar. **True / False / Not given**
2. Susan Boyle is a contestant on a TV talent show. **True / False / Not given**
3. A video of Susan Boyle has been watched by millions of people on the internet. **True / False / Not given**
4. Susan Boyle is a glamorous young woman. **True / False / Not given**
5. Susan Boyle is a favourite to win the TV show Britain's Got Talent. **True / False / Not given**

2. Expressions

a) Look at the expressions below. Try to match the idiom to its definition. (1 mark)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| (1) judging a book by its cover | (a) being exceptional at what you do |
| (2) spread the word | (b) not being very attractive |
| (3) a plain Jane | (c) make known |
| (4) a class act | (d) most likely |
| (5) odds-on favourite | (e) making assumptions based on how something or someone looks |



b) Now complete the sentences below by using one of the expressions above. (1 mark)

1. The web has been the main contribution to.....
2. Susan is a truly talented singer; in fact she is
3. Nobody in the contest is to win.
4. Susan has been described as However, this is one of her most appealing qualities.
5. During Susan's audition, people had to admit they were somewhat guilty of

3. Answer the following sentences about the text using your own words. (3 marks)

- a. What was Susan Boyle's life only a few weeks before the contest?
- b. What was people's first reaction when they saw her singing?
- c. According to Max Clifford what is the key of her success?
- d. Why do you think the whole Susan Boyle story is so extraordinary?
- e. How important is appearance to you? Do we judge people by their appearance? (25-50 words)
- f. What is your personal opinion about the social networking webs such as Facebook, Twitter or Tuenti? Write about advantages and disadvantages. (25 – 50 words)

4. Complete with one or more adequate words.(2 marks)

Susan Margaret Boyle (born 1 April 1961) is a Scottish singer _____ came to international public attention in 2009 after she appeared as a _____ on *Britain's Got Talent*. Boyle _____ known when she sang "I Dreamed a Dream" from *Les Misérables* in the competition's first round, first broadcast in the United Kingdom on 11 April 2009. In the final of the third series of the show, Boyle finished in second place, behind dance troupe Diversity.

_____ she appeared on the *Britain's Got Talent* stage for the first time, the audience and the judges appeared apprehensive and judgmental of her unpolished appearance. Upon finishing her song, she received a standing ovation from _____ and unanimous praise from the judges. She has been dubbed "The Woman Who Shut Up Simon Cowell". Cowell was reported to be setting up a contract with Boyle with his Syco Music company label, a subsidiary of Sony Music.

5. Rewrite the following sentences using the correct grammatical structure.(2 marks)

1. More than 26 million people ...
2. If Susan hadn't been an unassuming persona ...
3. After the initial reaction to her audition ...
4. Massive public interest in Susan is said ...