

LISTENING
(please read twice)

Female Writers Who Have Changed Our Reading Tastes

You will hear some information about four important female writers, particularly Agatha Christie, Shirley Conran, Helen Fielding, and Bernardine Evaristo.

Agatha Christie

With 66 detective novels to her name (not to mention short stories, poetry, and plays), the queen of crime is the bestselling novelist of all time. Poison was Agatha's fictional murder method of choice, in which she gained expertise while working as an apothecary's assistant during the First World War. Her disappearance in 1926 provoked a nationwide hunt (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped in the search) and, although she was found in a hotel in Harrogate, she never explained what had happened during those 11 days. Her books continue to sell and her play *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest running.

Shirley Conran

Shirley has always been ahead of the curve. Her 1975 book *Superwoman* – which included the mantra “Life's too short to stuff a mushroom” – told working women how to make more time for fun. Later, she set up The Work-Life Balance Trust to lobby for flexible working. She was women's editor of *The Observer Magazine* and the first editor of the *Daily Mail's* “Femail” pages. Aged 40, she quit due to illness and turned to writing novels. Her debut, *Lace*, paved the way for a generation of spicy books. More recently, Shirley has become a financial guru and launched the maths course *Money Stuff*.

Helen Fielding

When journalist Helen began her anonymous column in *The Independent* about a fictional thirtysomething singleton looking for love, she created one of the most iconic characters of all time. Flawed, funny Bridget Jones was a breath of fresh air and readers lapped it up – *Bridget Jones's Diary* has sold 15 million copies worldwide since it was published. A quarter of a century and three more books later, Helen's imperfect heroine has influenced many other fictional characters.

Bernardine Evaristo

When Bernardine won the Booker Prize in 2019 with *Girl, Woman, Other*, it was one of the most talked about wins in years. Not only was she the first Black woman to be awarded the prize, but the fact the judges broke their rules by declaring a tie was controversial (the £50,000 was split with Margaret Atwood). In 2020, she became the first Black woman to top the UK fiction paperback chart and was recently elected president of The Royal Society of Literature.

Source: *Good Housekeeping*, August 2022, page 45

ROLE – PLAY

STUDENT:

You have too many things to do right now and you need help with an English essay assignment which is due on Thursday. Ask your classmate for help. Even the topic is something they are knowledgeable about. Think of at least three things you are willing to offer as compensation for the time they will spend on your essay. You start the conversation.



ROLE – PLAY

TEACHER:

Your classmate needs your help with an English essay assignment which is due on Thursday. The topic is something you are interested in, however, you are not in the right mood for writing. You might consider helping them if they can provide the right motivation. Think of four things you want for helping them. If they agree with three of the four, you might consider helping them. Your classmate starts the conversation.

PICTURE – STORY

Based on the picture below,

create a story in which Amy – a young teacher from the U.K. – started teaching in a multicultural environment. She had to get acquainted with different teaching strategies, develop her knowledge of various religions and cultures, and communicate with parents who had different expectations. After some initial problems (mention some of them), Amy managed to get the attention of all the children (mention how she achieved that). She created a nice atmosphere in her classroom and gained the respect of both her pupils and their parents.



Source of the picture: <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/photo/teacher-reading-a-book-royalty-free-image/1134333181?adppopup=true>

ANSWER KEY

READING:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. strange, illegible (in either order) | 5. T |
| 2. optics, colo(u)rs/colo(u)r (in either order) | 6. NG |
| 3. Salon | 7. T |
| 4. same scene/scenes | 8. F |
| | 9. F |
| | 10.T |

10 points

VOCABULARY:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. restrictions | 6. increasingly |
| 2. investigation | 7. fearless |
| 3. robotics | 8. setbacks (accept setback) |
| 4. automation | 9. perseverance |
| 5. repetitive | 10.mindset |

10 points

GRAMMAR:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. much | |
| 2. who | |
| 3. being | |
| 4. up | |
| 5. yourself | |
| 6. over | |
| 7. others | |
| 8. in | |
| 9. ahead | |
| 10. away | |
| 11. as it may seem | |
| 12. have to be worn by | 14. three weeks had passed did |
| 13. did Henry smash a window but he also | 15. no circumstances are you to |

15 points

LISTENING (1/2 a point for each correct answer):

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. B | 6. S |
| 2. S | 7. A |
| 3. H | 8. B |
| 4. A | 9. H |
| 5. H | 10.S |

5 points

40 points

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