



PONDICHERY 2018

ANGLAIS LV1 (SERIE GENERALE)

Introduction

Une épreuve axée sur la différence entre personnes célèbres et héros et la confusion qui peut parfois exister entre ces deux catégories, ainsi que sur le caractère arbitraire de ces définitions. Une partie compréhension qui demandait d'explicitier l'implicite pour le document A et de bien avoir effectué son repérage pour le document B afin de ne pas se tromper sur l'identité des différents personnages mentionnés dans les questions.

I. COMPREHENSION ECRITE

DOCUMENT A

1. When he was a child, the journalist felt admiration towards Muhammad Ali because he seemed so much better than his rivals and because he played the part of an invincible hero after the match.
2. According to the journalist, people feel like him towards celebrities because we treat them like a "cultural elite" (l12) and because we develop "an actual sense of persoal

connection to them" (l.16), imagining that there is a bond between us even when we really don't know them at all.

3.

a. Now the journalist thinks that this hero worship and this admiration for athletes are very "bizarre", even absurd.

b. Charles Barkley agrees with the journalist and explains that a famous athlete is simply a person who is good at sports and that he doesn't want the responsibility of being a role model.

DOCUMENT B

4. Mickey Mantle is a baseball player.

5. The narrator expects Mantle to give him an autograph.

6. a. In real life, Mickey Mantle seems even more impressive to the narrator than he imagined him to be.

LVA ONLY

6. b. The narrator can see that Mantle is being rude by not "even try[ing] to hide" (l8) his yawns but he makes up excuses for him, imagining that his hero is tired after a long day. Nothing that antle does can be wrong, since he is the narrator's hero.

7. When the narrator comments on the interaction between Danny Hupfer and Mickey Mantle he uses religious vocabulary such as "holy moment" (l12) and church references like "stained glass windows"(l14). Besides, the feelings that the narrator attributes to Danny Hupfer, namely "awe and worship" (l15) are the same that believers feel for their gods.

ALL

8. a. As they talk, Mickey Mantle is rude to the narrator, both in the way he talks to him ("Sounds like a girl's name" l28) and in his behaviour, such as when he stares at the narrator with contempt and then throws his baseball onto the floor, without a care for the kid's feelings.

b. Mantle's attitude has a very strong impact on the narrator who feels that the world has come to an end and who also feels guilty of being unworthy of his idol, wishing he would "disappear (...) and never be heard from again" (ll34-35)

9. As a result, Danny Hupfer gives his baseball back to Mickey Mantle, to show his disapproval of the way the athlete just treated the narrator, and also as a sign of support for the other kid.

DOCUMENTS A ET B

10. In both texts we see that being a celebrity and being a hero come from the way people, such as the journalist in Document A, or the narrator and Danny Hupfer in Document B, see you.

However, both texts illustrate that while being a celebrity simply means being famous for a talent, being a hero implies more than that. Being a hero means that people identify with you, they look up to you and admire you and develop a sense of connection with you. Athletes stop being real men and become role models for entire generations, whether they like it, or, as in the case of Charles Barkley, not.

Being a hero also means that you have to embody certain values and ethics and that people expect a certain behaviour from you. In Document B, we see that when Mickey Mantle is disrespectful to the narrator, he loses the respect of his other fan Danny Hupfer.

II. EXPRESSION ECRITE

TOUTES SERIES SAUF LVA : SUJET 1 OU 2

1)

"You - what?" Mickey Mantle looked lost. He looked at the ball, then at Danny, then back at the ball again, as if he couldn't believe what he was seeing. "Are you crazy, kid?"

Danny stood very straight, but his eyes couldn't meet those of his idol "Maybe I am," he said "But what you just did was unfair and rude, and the Mickey Mantle I know would never hurt a fan's feelings like this."

I thought Mantle was going to get angry but instead he just chuckled. "You've got some nerve, kid! Telling me what I would or would never do... I'll tell you what, though, I'm not angry. I even sometimes wish I knew the Mickey Mantle you admire... But I'm going to tell you a little secret-

The formidable athlete leant forward across the table, held the rejected baseball in his massive hands and was silent for a few seconds. "that Mickey Mantle doesn't exist. He only lives in your head and in the fantasies of so many other fans, all looking for a hero. You just borrow my face and stick it on whatever values you need to believe in. Well, sorry to disappoint, kid, but in the real world, this," he gestured at himself with his hands "is all there is."

Danny Hupfer remained silent and I noticed that the light had changed in the room. Gone was the soft glow which had reminded me of stained glass windows. Now, in the harsh neon ight of the bar, Danny looked vulnerable and angry. His eyes were shining but his fists were clenched. And still he said nothing, staring at the baseball in Mantle's hand.

Finally, Danny's father broke the heavy silence and said "For God's sake, Mantle, all you had to do was sign that baseball. Did you have to be such an ass about it ?" He grabbed

his son by the shoulders and turned around towards the front door. " Come on Danny, we're leaving."

2)

In his article about famous athletes and their modern-day hero status, the journalist from The Washington Times remarked that "the danger is that we have come to admire celebrities more than real heroes". To a certain extent, he is right.

So many celebrities nowadays are well-known for no other reason than for participating in a pointless reality-TV game. It requires no talent, no strong sense of justice, no particular intelligence, no unique skill. I remember this anecdote about a journalist who was asking young people what they wanted to do when they were older. and several of the people interviewed answered "I want to be famous." "Ok", replied the journalist, "what do you want to be renowned for?" probably expecting the teenager to start talking passionately about their favourite hobby. Not at all, the standard answer was "whatever, I just want to be famous, and seen on TV and invited everywhere and recognized in the street." This shows that some young people admire so-called celebrities, not for who they are, or what they can do, or for the virtues they embody, but simply because they are famous and recognized by everyone.

However, I am not sure that they are truly admired and revered as much as real heroes. In fact, most of them are quickly forgotten, once the buzz they generated has died down, leaving no lasting impression in our memories, apart from their signature catchphrase... One empty celebrity quickly replaces another, but true heroes, people who really make or did make the world a better place, they do not disappear : Mandela, Pasteur, Marie Curie, Mother Teresa, those names still have meaning and will continue to do so long after all the celebrities of the day have disappeared into the ages.

LVA ONLY

In his article about famous athletes and their modern-day hero status, the journalist from The Washington Times remarked that "the danger is that we have come to admire

celebrities more than real heroes". To a certain extent, he is right. But before we can agree or disagree with him, we need to examine the difference between those two categories.

In my opinion, celebrities are people who are well known by the general public and with whom people identify, thinking "we're not so different. I could be him / her". Heroes, on the other hand, are exemplary figures who embody a virtue or who made a significant contribution to the world, whether we are talking about politics, arts, sports, medicine etc.

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