

# Celebrity Readers

## FAMOUS ACTRESSES

REM 473

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# INTRODUCTION

Most everyone enjoys reading about celebrities. The short, high-interest, easy-to-read biographies in this book are sure to capture students' attention. Each story is accompanied by an activity page that tests reading comprehension and enhances following-directions skills. Activity pages include fact-based questions, crossword puzzles, true-false/fact-opinion questions, fill-in-the-blanks, and more. A related research project for each story may require the use of a dictionary, an almanac, encyclopedia, atlas, or the Internet. An answer key is provided.

Interest level for this book is grades 3-12. Reading level is grades 4-5.

## **Additional Activity:**

Since the events in the lives of celebrities are constantly changing, ask students to become reporters and write a "celebrity update," adding any new information that they can find on a particular celebrity. A template for this is provided on page 29. Hold a guided class discussion in which the students share their information and talk about their findings.

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# JENNIFER ANISTON



Jennifer Aniston became famous as part of the cast on the hit TV show *Friends*. She played Rachel Green. Rachel came from a well-to-do family. She moved to New York City to show that she could make it on her own. Jennifer was so popular as Rachel that even her hairstyle became popular. It was called the “Rachel.” Many young women wore their hair in this style.

*Friends* ran from 1994-2004. One of the reasons it was so popular was because the cast really was friends on and off the set. Today, Jennifer is still good friends with the actress who played Monica.

Jennifer was born February 11, 1969, in Sherman Oaks, California. She is the daughter of John Aniston. He was

a daytime soap opera star. The family name is Greek. It was shortened from *Anastasakis* to *Aniston*. Jennifer lived in Greece for a year when she was a child. Then her family moved to New York.

Jennifer became interested in the arts at a young age. She loved to paint. When she was 11 years old, one of her paintings was shown in a famous New York art museum. As a teenager, she enrolled in New York’s High School for Performing Arts. After graduating, she set out to make a name for herself.

Jennifer’s performance as Rachel won her an Emmy. It also led to a movie career. She starred in the hits *She’s the One*, *The Object of My Affection*, *Bruce Almighty*, and *Along Came Polly*. Her 2006 movie, *The Break-Up*, made over \$116 million!

Jennifer married actor Brad Pitt in July 2000. Their wedding was a big event. It cost over \$1 million. Jennifer and Brad were married for five years. They were one of Hollywood’s most famous couples.

Rachel may be gone from TV, but Jennifer is still around. Jennifer continues to star in movies. She makes guest appearances on TV shows. Rachel Green made it on her own, and so has Jennifer Aniston.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# JENNIFER ANISTON

**Cross out the sentences that are NOT CORRECT or are NOT INCLUDED in the story.**

Jennifer was born February 11, 1969, in Sherman Oaks, California.

The family name is Italian.

Jennifer and Brad Pitt have two children.

She became interested in the arts at a young age.

*Friends* ran from 1994-2004.

Jennifer's performance as Rachel won her an Emmy.

Jennifer now directs a TV show.

Rachel moved to New York City to show that she could make it on her own.

**Write the sentences you have not crossed out in the order that they appear in the story.**

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**Research:** Find *Greece* in an encyclopedia. What is its capital city? Draw a picture of its flag.

# DREW BARRYMORE



**D**rew Barrymore has show business in her blood. Her great grandfather Maurice was a stage actor. John Barrymore was her grandfather. He was a famous actor in the 1920s and 1930s. Drew's parents were also actors. The Barrymores have been in theater and films for over a century.

Drew was born February 22, 1975, in Culver City, California. She hit the big time at age 7 when she played Gertie in the movie *E.T.* Audiences loved the little girl in pigtails. Drew went on to star in other roles. She was soon a well-known child actress.

Because of her early success, Drew went through a troubled period. She didn't know how to deal with her fame.

★ She turned to things that were not good for her. Eventually, she got help. This kept her from acting, though, and almost doomed her career. But, getting help allowed Drew to get her life back on track.

Drew's performance in *Everyone Says I Love You* started her career comeback. Starring in the hit movies *The Wedding Singer* and *Ever After* helped her become a star again. Audiences fell in love with her charm and beauty once more. Now Drew gets millions of dollars for roles in comedies like *Never Been Kissed*, *Fever Pitch*, and *50 First Dates*. She seems to have a natural talent for them.

Drew also has a talent for action. She proved this in the popular *Charlie's Angels* movies. Drew and her co-stars captivated audiences as they fought crime and tried to save the world.

This talented star does not just act. Drew gives generously to charities. She speaks out for animal and human rights. Drew is also a successful businesswoman. She owns a production company called Flower Films. It has produced many of the movies she has starred in.

★ Today, Drew knows how lucky she is to have the life she has now. The once-troubled young actress has turned into a mature woman doing what she loves best.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# DREW BARRYMORE

Match the clues to the words in the box. Write the answers on the lines.

John	production
charities	Gertie
Flower Films	<i>Ever After</i>
comedy	<i>Charlie's Angels</i>

1. role Drew played in *E.T.* \_\_\_\_\_
2. name of Drew's production company \_\_\_\_\_
3. movies that showed Drew's talent for action \_\_\_\_\_
4. name of Drew's famous grandfather \_\_\_\_\_
5. what Drew gives generously to \_\_\_\_\_
6. movie that helped Drew become a star again \_\_\_\_\_
7. type of company Drew owns \_\_\_\_\_
8. type of movies Drew seems to have a talent for \_\_\_\_\_

**Research:** The *Charlie's Angels* movies are based on a TV series. Find *Charlie's Angels* on the Internet. Name the three women who were the original Charlie's Angels.

# HALLE BERRY

**H**alle Berry knows the meaning of the phrase “baby steps.” Halle moved up in the entertainment world bit by bit. Now she is one of Hollywood’s highest-paid actresses. She even has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Halle was born August 14, 1966, in Cleveland, Ohio. She comes from a mixed heritage. Her father is African-American. Her mother is Caucasian. Halle grew up in a mostly white neighborhood. At first, she felt like an outsider. People made fun of her for the color of her skin. This only made Halle work harder for the things she wanted.

Halle started off in beauty contests. She was named Miss Teen Ohio and Miss Teen America. In 1986, she was the first runner-up in the Miss USA pageant.

Modeling and TV were next for this rising star. After that came movies. Halle’s first film was *Jungle Fever* in 1991. She went on to star in many movies, like *Losing Isaiah*, *Why Do Fools Fall in Love*, and *Catwoman*.

In 2000, Halle starred in *X-Men*. She played Storm, a superhero who could control the weather. Halle went on to play Storm in two more *X-Men* movies.



In 1999, Halle starred in *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*. Dorothy was a real person. She was a singer and dancer who broke racial barriers in the 1950s. Halle said she hoped that people would realize what Dorothy gave society as an African-American female performer.

Halle herself has given society a lot as an African-American female performer. In 2001, she became the first African-American to win an Oscar for Best Actress. In her speech, Halle thanked all of the African-American actresses who had come before her and not won an award. She said that she won the award for them and for those who would come after her.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# HALLE BERRY

## Complete the sentences with words from the story.

1. Halle Berry was born August 14, 1966, in \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio.
2. Halle is one of Hollywood's \_\_\_\_\_ actresses.
3. At first, Halle felt like an \_\_\_\_\_ in her neighborhood.
4. Halle was named \_\_\_\_\_ and Miss Teen America.
5. Halle's first movie was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1991.
6. Halle played \_\_\_\_\_ in the *X-Men* movies.
7. In 1999, Halle starred in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Dorothy was a singer and dancer who broke \_\_\_\_\_ barriers in the 1950s.
9. In 2001, Halle became the first African-American to win an \_\_\_\_\_ for Best Actress.
10. Halle said that she won the award for the African-American actresses who came before her and for those who would come \_\_\_\_\_ her.

**Research:** Find *Dorothy Dandridge* in an encyclopedia. What award was she nominated for in 1954? What movie was it for?