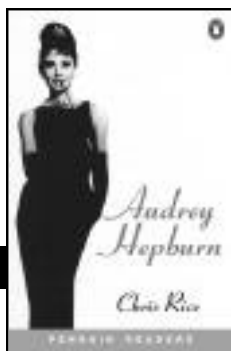


Teacher's notes

Audrey Hepburn

by Chris Rice



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ELEMENTARY

SUMMARY

Audrey Hepburn was born in Belgium in 1929 into an aristocratic family, but her father left the family when she was six years old. As a child during the war, Audrey experienced hardship and poverty but through it all she was determined to become a dancer. Then, through a lucky chance she was spotted by a London musical producer, and her career began as a famous and successful actress, covering nearly forty years.

In spite of her apparent success, however, there was much sadness in her life. Her two marriages did not last and several pregnancies ended with her losing her baby. In later life, she turned her back on the world of movies and acting and worked instead with deprived children in some of the poorer countries of the world. She died from cancer at the relatively young age of 64 in Switzerland, within sight of her beloved snow-covered mountains. She was much mourned by the movie world, as well as by her many fans the world over.

Fact File

Born in 1929. Died in 1993.

Real name

Edda van Heemstra Hepburn-Ruston

Best films

- My Fair Lady (1964)
- Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)
- Roman Holiday (1953)
- Charade (1963)
- Nun's Story, The (1959)
- Sabrina (1954)

Worst films

- Green Mansions (1959)
- Paris – When It Sizzles (1964)
- Bloodline (1979)

Off Screen

United Nations Children's Fund Special Ambassador 1988–1993.

What people said about her

'A slender, elfin and wistful beauty, alternately regal and childlike.' (a film critic)

'You looked around and suddenly there was this dazzling creature looking like a wild-eyed doe prancing in the forest. Everybody on the set was in love within five minutes.' (Billy Wilder, film director)

What she said about herself

'I never thought I'd land in pictures with a face like mine.'
 'I was asked to act when I couldn't act. I was asked to sing 'Funny Face' when I couldn't sing and dance with Fred Astaire when I couldn't dance – and do all kinds of things I wasn't prepared for. Then I tried like mad to cope with it.'
 About her UNICEF role: 'I just decided to do as much as

possible in the time that I'm still up to it.'

Salary

- My Fair Lady (1964) – \$1.1 million
- The Unforgiven (1960) – \$200,000
- War and Peace (1956) – \$130,000
- Sabrina (1954) – \$15,000

Prizes

- 1953 Academy Award as best actress in the film 'Roman Holiday'.
- 1953 Tony award for the play 'Ondine'.
- 1960 Bafta award for the film 'The Nun's Story'.
- 1965 Bafta award for the film 'Charade'.
- 1997 Number 50 in 'The Top 100 Movie Stars of All Time' (Empire magazine, UK)
- 1990 One of the 50 Most Beautiful People in the world (People magazine)
- 1993 Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; with Elizabeth Taylor)
- 1995 Number 8 in '100 Sexiest Stars in film history' (Empire magazine)

BACKGROUND AND THEMES

Audrey Hepburn was one of Hollywood's best known film stars of the 1950's and 60's, a golden age in the film industry. Audiences and film directors loved her because she was slender, graceful and elegant and she maintained this image of regal serenity throughout her long career. She was quite unlike some of the actresses of the time, who were seen as 'sex-goddesses'. Audrey Hepburn had an elf-like quality, and a suggestion of playfulness and high spirits. She was the daughter of a wealthy banker and a Dutch baroness, and Americans were attracted by the fact that she was born into the European aristocracy. She was cosmopolitan and seemed like a real European princess. She was clearly an ideal choice for the reluctant princess she played in her first big film 'Roman Holiday'.

Her career had fairy tale beginnings. Though she trained as a dancer and worked as a model, she was 'spotted', first by a London producer, and then by the well-known French writer, Colette. Despite protesting that she could not act, she found herself playing the lead part in a Broadway musical, 'Gigi', in New York. During her film career she worked with some of the most famous names in the industry: directors such as William Wyler, Billy Wilder and George Cukor, and actors such as Gregory Peck (Roman Holiday), Gary Cooper (Love in the Afternoon), Cary Grant (Charade) and Rex Harrison (My Fair Lady). She won several Oscar nominations (though only one award) and numerous other awards for her acting.

AUDREY HEPBURN



Teacher's notes

But at the end of the sixties, after her divorce from her actor-director husband, Mel Ferrer, she chose to leave the shallow film world and live mostly in Switzerland. Despite being hailed as a great actress, Audrey stopped acting full-time, returning to movie-making only occasionally. Perhaps, in 1959, when she fell from her horse while pregnant in Mexico and lost the longed-for child for the second time, the true cost of a glamorous film star's life became clear. She had desperately wanted a happy family life – unlike her own childhood experiences – but her relationships with men seemed to be spoiled by the career she had chosen. When both her two children experienced the same loss of a father that she did, she must have realised that fame, wealth and beauty do not necessarily bring with them happiness.

It became clear to her that there were other things in life that were more important than movies. In her last years, she worked as a 'goodwill ambassador' for the United Nations' UNICEF charity, travelling extensively in Africa and Latin America. She visited Ethiopia during the drought to call attention to the plight of starving children. It seemed that it was her own childhood experience of hunger and fear in Holland during the Second World War which drove her to do something of more real value. During the war, one of her brothers was taken to a labour camp, and an uncle and cousin were executed. She once said her family had to eat tulip bulbs.

Audrey Hepburn had an extraordinary life. In many ways, she was extremely fortunate. But, although she perhaps had more than her fair share of luck, she also paid a price for her good fortune. At the same time, she remains a different kind of superstar from many of her contemporaries. She will be remembered for her kindness and goodness, even angelic qualities, as well as for her unquestioned beauty and talents.

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader, and supplement those exercises. For supplementary exercises covering shorter sections of the book see the photocopyable Student's Activities pages of this Factsheet. These are primarily for use with class readers but, with the exception of discussion and pair/groupwork questions, can also be used by students working alone in a self-access centre.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Make copies of the pictures on pages 1, 13 and 22. (Or ask students to look at the pictures in the book). Ask students to work in pairs and talk about these questions:

- How old is Audrey in each picture?
- What is she doing in each picture?
- In which picture does she look the most beautiful? Why?
- In which picture does she look happiest? Why?

Then discuss these questions with the whole class. Ask the class if they think she had a happy life.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

Chapters 1–7

Put students in pairs or threes. Ask them to act one of these conversations.

- (a) Student A is Audrey. She tells her mother that she cannot be a ballet dancer. Student B is Audrey's mother. She is angry. Student C is the producer of a big London musical. He phones and asks if Audrey will act in his musical.
- (b) Student A is Colette. She wants Audrey to be Gigi on Broadway. Student B is Audrey. She thinks she can't be Gigi.
- (c) Student A is a film director. He wants Audrey to be in his film. Student B is Audrey. She does not want to be in his film.
- (d) Student B is Audrey. She phones Mel from Mexico. She tells him about her accident. She is very sad. Student B is Mel. He is in the United States. He is sad because his film Green Mansions was not successful. He is not working but he is very nice to Audrey.

Chapters 8–13

Audrey liked the colour white. When she saw it she felt safe and warm and she remembered her father. Write the names of some colours on the board: red, blue, green, yellow, black, white, etc. Ask students to work in pairs and to talk about the colours, like this: 'I like/don't like (blue). When I see it, I think of .../I feel ...'. Which colour do the class like best and why?

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

Ask students to work in pairs and to write five questions they would like to ask Audrey or another person in her life. Put the pairs together to make a four. Students imagine they are Audrey (or the other person from her life) and try to answer each other's questions.

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practised in the 'Before You Read' sections at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

Chapters 1–7

- act** (v) to perform in a play or film
- ballet** (n) a performance in which a special kind of dance and music tell a story
- baroness** (n) a woman member of the lowest rank of the British nobility
- become** (v) to begin to be something
- dig** (v) to make a hole in the ground
- direct** (v) to give the actors in a play or film instructions about what they should do
- musical** (n) a play or film that uses singing and dancing to tell a story
- nervous** (adj) worried or frightened about something that might happen
- nun** (n) a member of an all-female religious group who live in a convent
- part** (n) a character in a film or play
- play** (n) a piece of writing performed in a theatre
- pregnant** (adj) having an unborn baby growing inside your body
- princess** (n) a close female relation of a king or queen
- produce** (v) to control the preparation of a play or film
- safe** (adj) not in danger
- travel** (v) to go from one place to another or to several other places
- war** (n) fighting between two or more countries

Chapters 8–13

- angel** (n) someone who is very kind or good
- poor** (adj) having very little money or possessions
- successful** (adj) having a lot of money, being well-known and respected



Student's activities

Photocopiable

These activities can be done alone or with one or more other people. Pair/group-only activities are marked.

Activities before reading the book

- What do you know about Audrey Hepburn? Write down everything. Talk about Audrey Hepburn with a friend.
- Are these sentences right or wrong? Read the introduction and find out.
 - Audrey Hepburn is dead.
 - Audrey wanted to be a ballet dancer.
 - She learned to be an actor at acting school.
 - She did not make many films.
 - She had many sad times in her life.
 - Some people did not like her.
 - She had a warm face but she was a cold person inside.
 - Many people loved her because she was beautiful.
- What would you like to know about Audrey Hepburn? Think of five things. Talk with a friend or write your answers.

Activities while reading the book

Chapter 1

- Which thing happened first, second, third, fourth...? Number the sentences 1-7.
 - The war finished.
 - Audrey went to school in England.
 - Audrey was born in Brussels.
 - The war started.
 - The Germans came to Arnhem.
 - Audrey's father left the family.
 - Audrey's mother took her to Arnhem.
- These sentences are wrong. Change them so they are right. Don't look at the book!
 - Audrey's father was Dutch
 - Audrey liked the colour white because she remembered her mother.
 - Audrey's father was not rich.
 - Audrey was a funny, noisy girl.
 - Audrey spoke English well.
 - Audrey was happy when she was a child.
 - Audrey hated ballet dancing.
 - In the war, the family had a lot of food.

Chapter 2

- Answer these questions:
 - What jobs did Audrey's mother do?
 - How old was Audrey in her first movie?
 - How old was Audrey in 1948?



Audrey Hepburn



- Why couldn't Audrey be a ballet dancer?
 - What changed her life?
 - What was her first famous movie?
 - Why didn't Audrey marry James Hanson?
 - Why did Audrey go to New York?
- What did Audrey look like? Find words in the chapter and write some sentences about her.

Chapters 3 & 4

Here are some men in Audrey's life. Put the words with the right people:

- Gregory Peck
- William Holden
- James Hanson
- Mel Ferrer
- Hubert de Givenchy
- Humphrey Bogart
- the right man for Audrey
- had a wife and three children
- made Audrey's clothes
- not friendly to Audrey
- a famous actor in Roman Holiday
- Audrey was not ready to be his wife

Chapters 5 and 6

Which thing happened first, second, third ...? Write two sentences in each box like the first box. Then write the year.

- > Audrey made a film with Fred Astaire.
- > It was a very happy time in her married life.
- > Audrey was in War and Peace.
- > Audrey became pregnant but lost the baby.
- > Audrey helped Mel with his work in Spain.
- > Audrey married Mel Ferrer.
- > Mel sent Audrey a dog.
- > Audrey acted with her husband.

1953	> Audrey won an Oscar and a Tony. Audrey went to Switzerland for a holiday.

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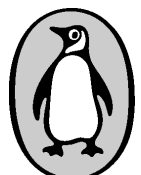
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ELEMENTARY

AUDREY HEPBURN



Student's activities

Chapter 7 and 8

Make sentences from these half sentences.

- 'The Nun's Story' was a different kind of film but
- Mel directed 'Green Mansions' but
- Audrey lost her second baby when
- Alfred Hitchcock was angry with Audrey because
- Audrey didn't act in 'West Side Story' because
- Audrey was nervous about the part of Holly in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' because
 - she didn't want to be in his film 'Psycho'.
 - she did not usually play bad girls.
 - it was Audrey's worst film.
 - Audrey acted very well in it.
 - she was pregnant for the third time.
 - she fell from a horse in the middle of 'The Unforgiven'

Chapters 9 and 10

- Work with a friend. Audrey and her friend Givenchy are having dinner. Audrey is making the film 'Paris When it Sizzles'. Student A: You are Audrey. Tell Givenchy about all your problems. Talk about these things: your dog, your husband, William Holden, your films. Student B: You are Givenchy. Be helpful.
- Put these words in the right places. Use each word in one place only:

boring well beautiful cried successful fights
bad famous worst movie died

From 1961 to 1965 was a time for Audrey. She made some films and her dog But the problem was Mel. He was not happy because his first film 'Green Mansions' was not Also Audrey was now more than him. Then Audrey started to make My Fair Lady. This was a difficult for her because everybody wanted to see Julie Andrews in it. Also she could not sing as as Julie Andrews. When Mel visited Audrey they had , and she in front of the cameras. But Audrey was in My Fair Lady and she acted well.

Chapters 11 and 12

- Put in the numbers:
 - Audrey and Mel lived in Spain for months.
 - Audrey was when her father went away.
 - Between 1964 and , Audrey and Mel tried to be happy.
 - years after Mel left her, Audrey married again.
 - She was years older than her new husband.

- After year, Audrey had another a baby, Luca.
- Audrey stayed with Dotti for years.
- When she was married to Dotti, she only made movie.

- Look up 'agree' in your dictionary. Then talk about this question with a friend or write your answers.

When Audrey heard about Andrea Dotti's girlfriends, other women said to her, 'It's not a problem.' But Audrey did not agree. Do you agree with Audrey or her friends? Why?

Chapter 13

Say why:

- Audrey made only two or three movies after 1979.
- Audrey started to work for the United Nations.
- She went back to her house in Switzerland in 1992.
- There were white flowers in her house.
- Elizabeth Taylor said 'God has a beautiful new angel now.'

Activities after reading the book

What do you think about Audrey Hepburn? Answer these questions. Use the numbers 1-5. 1 means a strong 'no' and 5 means a strong 'yes'. Give the questions to a friend. Then discuss your answers. Are your answers the same or different? Why?

- Was she beautiful?
- Was she successful in her work?
- Was she successful in her married life?
- Was she a good mother?
- Was she an 'angel'?
- Did she have a happy life?
- Was she really a 'nice, warm person'?

