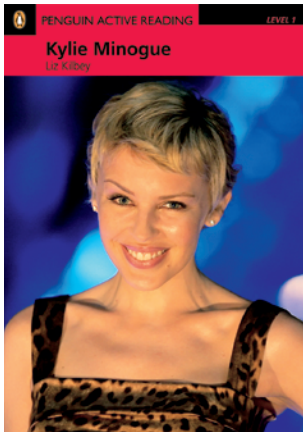




Kylie Minogue

Liz Kilbey



Summary

The book tells the story of Kylie Minogue from her first appearance as an actress in the Australian series *Neighbours* through her rise to fame as an internationally known singer, her romances and her fight against cancer. Kylie is from Melbourne, Australia, and as a small child she loved singing, dancing and acting. In 1986, she played Charlene in *Neighbours* alongside Jason Donovan. In 1987 she recorded the song 'I Should Be So Lucky', which was her first worldwide hit. She went on to record many famous hits and had several famous boyfriends. She also started a perfume business and was a model for a big clothes shop. In 2005, while she was doing the *Showgirl* world tour, disaster struck. Kylie had to cancel shows because she had cancer. A lot of people were very sad to hear the news of her illness and wrote many letters to her. She was ill for a year but recovered. Apart from singing, she has written songs and appeared in the British TV show *Doctor Who*. She is much loved as a performer and as a person today.

Background and themes

Clothes, fashion and image: Clothes come into fashion and go out of fashion at regular intervals. The big music stars, such as Kylie, know that what's fashionable musically changes, and that the clothes and the image you have are very important. Kylie is always changing her style and image in order to reinvent herself and to gain a wider audience.

Private lives: Much of the public is interested in the private lives of famous people. They like to read in newspapers about the glamorous lifestyles they have, about their boyfriends and girlfriends, and about the things that happen to them.

Discussion activities

Before reading

- Game:** Play *Names on the head* in groups of four. Each student writes the name of a famous person on a piece of paper and sticks it on the forehead of the student next to them. Students take turns asking the group questions to discover who they are. Only questions with a 'yes' or 'no' answer are allowed. If the answer to a question is 'yes', then the student asks another until a 'no' answer is received. See Discussion key for possible questions.

Chapters 1–2

After reading

- Discuss:** Ask the students to discuss their favourite TV shows in small groups: *What is the name of the show? What time is it on? Who are the people in it? What do they do? Which country do they live in? Why do you like the show?*

Chapters 3–4

After reading

- Pair work:** Write the following words on the board: *hit, image, dead, photos, boyfriend, clothes*. In pairs, students make sentences including these words to reflect how they were important in Chapters 3–4, without looking at the book.

Chapter 5

While reading (p. 18, after 'She was a model for a big clothes shop.')

- Write:** Ask the students, in pairs, to write the names of all the clothes they know in English. Check their answers. The group with the longest list wins. Then, put the names on the board adding some new ones of your own. Can the students guess what the new ones mean? Get students to talk in pairs about when or how often they wear these clothes. Give them the following cues:
Now, I am wearing
I always / often / sometimes / never wear
I wear for school / work / in the summer / in the winter / at weekends.

After reading

- Group work and write:** In small groups, have students write four questions about any part of the book. Check their work as they do this. Tell the class to close their books. Each group reads out their questions and the other groups must write down their answers. Give a point for each correct answer. The group with the most points wins.

Vocabulary activities

For the Word list and vocabulary activities, go to www.penguinreaders.com.