



THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA – Extra

Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2. Suitable for users of CROWN/TEAM magazines.

SYNOPSIS

Andy Sachs has just left university and comes to New York to be a magazine writer. She writes to all the big publishers and gets just one interview – on a fashion magazine. Miranda Priestly, editor of *Runway* magazine, the most important woman in fashion and the boss from hell, needs a second personal assistant. Although Andy knows nothing about fashion and says all the wrong things at the interview, Miranda decides to give her a chance.

The job doesn't involve any writing, it's about completing trivial and sometimes impossible tasks for Miranda at any time of the day and night. Andy hates it, so why doesn't she leave? Because anyone who can last a year with Miranda, can get a job on any magazine in New York. *Runway* takes over Andy's life and she starts to neglect her friends and family. Her friend Lily is becoming an alcoholic, but Andy doesn't notice. She misses dates with her boyfriend Alex, and he feels he isn't important to her any more.

Andy goes as Miranda's assistant to Paris Fashion Week. But then there's an emergency phone call from home. Lily has been hurt in a car accident. Should Andy fly home, get fired and waste the whole year's work? Or should she stay to the end of the week, keep her job and show she doesn't care about her friend? First she decides to stay, but when Miranda makes a totally unreasonable and impossible demand, she finally realises that friends and family are more important to her. She gets fired, returns to New York and starts writing for other magazines.

THE BACK STORY

The author Lauren Weisberger drew on her own life experiences when she wrote the novel *The Devil Wears Prada*, which was first published by HarperCollins in 2003. Like Andy Sachs, Weisberger studied English at university and then travelled in Asia before starting her first job in New York as the personal assistant to the editor of a prestigious fashion magazine.

The film *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006) is quite a loose adaptation of Weisberger's original novel. The film was a great success with Meryl Streep (Miranda) and Emily Blunt (Emily) winning Golden Globes for their performances.

The Scholastic Reader follows the novel very closely. If students have seen the film, they should notice differences in the story (for example, Lily's alcoholism and car accident don't feature in the film).

Both the film and the novel celebrate the world of fashion, while gently mocking some of its extremes.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: A DVD of the film is produced by Twentieth Century Fox.

CD: A recording of *The Devil Wears Prada* is available to accompany the Scholastic Reader.

Internet: The author's website is at www.laurenweisberger.com. For more information about the film visit www.imdb.com.

Book: The original novel *The Devil Wears Prada* is published by HarperCollins.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have your students seen the film? Motivate them with background information (see The Back Story above) and by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self-Study Activities at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Using the DVD

Select the English language option on the DVD. The film is around 104 minutes long. Select scenes to show in parallel with the class reading schedule, or show scenes when the class has finished the book, as a reward.

Glossary

Go to the 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *The Devil Wears Prada* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet). Put them into context. Ask students to look out for these expressions as they read.

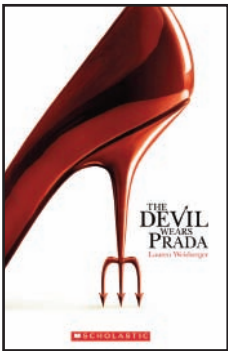
Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. These provide background information about the writer, the film and its stars, the issue of ethical fashion and the world of New York magazines.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *The Devil Wears Prada*. Compare opinions. If they haven't seen the film, would they want to see it? Did you like the reader? Let us know at readers@scholasticeltreaders.com.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

- Extra

People and places

Find the right names to complete these sentences.

- a) ... *Andrea Sachs* ... wants to be a writer.
- b) is a writer.
- c) wants to be a fashion editor at Runway.
- d) is a fashion editor at Runway.
- e) is the editor of Runway.
- f) is a teacher.
- g) is Andy's boyfriend.

Chapters 1-2

1 Sharon interviews Andy at Elias-Clark. Complete her notes.

.....

Last name: *Sachs*

First name:

University:

Subject:

Has she worked on magazines before?: Yes No

Does she dress well? Yes No

Has she heard of Miranda Priestly? Yes No

What magazines does she read?

Runway The New Yorker

Time Newsweek

Is she right for this job? Yes No

.....

2 Make sentences.

- a) Sharon phones Andy i) in the dining room.
- b) Andy moves to a small flat ii) for two minutes.
- c) Miranda worked her way iii) at seven in the morning.
- d) Andy leaves the office empty iv) to the top of the fashion world.
- e) Miranda calls the office while Andy is v) with Andy for leaving the office.
- f) Emily is very angry vi) on the Upper East Side.

3 Answer these questions.

- a) Why does Andy take the *Runway* job?
- b) How is Andy different from the other people at *Runway*?
- c) What kind of boss is Miranda going to be, do you think?

Chapters 3-4

1 Circle the best words in italics to complete these sentences.

- a) Andy has to get the new Harry Potter book *one day* / *two days* before it arrives in bookshops.
- b) Miranda's girls can read the book *before* / *at the same time* as their friends.
- c) During the weekend, Andy *knows* / *doesn't know* that her mobile phone is off.
- d) Miranda is *happy* / *angry* when the Harry Potter book arrives.
- e) *Lily* / *Andy* has too much champagne at the New Year party.
- f) Andy *now understands* / *still doesn't understand* why Miranda Priestly is so important.

2 Write the names to complete the sentences.

- a) *Emily* changes her clothes before Miranda arrives.
- b) calls Miranda the wrong name.
- c) stays in the office exactly four minutes.
- d) can't stop talking in Miranda's flat.
- e) has written several books.

3 Write down three things Miranda likes and three things she doesn't like. Show your ideas to another student. Have you chosen the same things?

Chapters 5-6

1 Explain why these things happen.

- a) Andy can't find the furniture shop in the Seventies.
It isn't in the Seventies.
- b) Nigel gives Andy some Prada clothes.
.....
- c) Andy says no to Christian's offer.
.....
- d) Miranda doesn't want her lunch.
.....
- e) Alex leaves the bar soon after Andy arrives.
.....

2 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a) Emily isn't excited about going to Paris.
- b) Lily is angry with Andy because she puts the phone down.
- c) Alex puts the phone down because Andy shouts at him.
- d) Andy gets up before eight o'clock on moving day.
- e) Lily calls Andy from the police station.
- f) Andy remembers to call Alex at three-thirty.
- g) Andy is excited about the Homecoming weekend.

3 Talk to another student. What is more important for Andy at the moment - her job or her friends?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Chapters 7–8

1 Answer these questions in a notebook.

- a) What costs more than most American families spend in a year?
- b) Why is Lily looking great and feeling really happy?
- c) How do you think Andy really feels about Christian?
- d) Why hasn't Andy found the piece about the Asian restaurant?
- e) How is Miranda different from her husband's family?
- f) Why does Andy feel sorry for Miranda at the party? Do you feel sorry for her?

2 Circle the wrong word in each sentence. Write the right word.

- a) Alex is really pleased when he hears that Andy is going to Paris. *angry*
- b) Alex is worried about Lily's eating problem.
- c) Andy arrives early at the Ritz hotel in Paris.
- d) Miranda wants Andy to write a long, intelligent speech.
- e) Andy gives a wonderful speech at the lunch.

3 What do you think is going to happen in Paris?

- a) Miranda will get angry with Andy and send her back to New York.
- b) Alex will arrive in Paris and tell her he loves her.
- c) Another idea:

Chapters 9–10

1 Which of these things does Andy do. Tick (✓) them.

- a) She enjoys her day off.
- b) She goes to a drinks party with Miranda.
- c) She spends the evening with Miranda.
- d) She spends the evening with Christian.
- e) She gets bad news about Lily from home.
- f) She decides to go home after the party.
- g) She gets new passports for Miranda's girls.
- h) She tells Miranda to get lost.
- i) She flies back to her family and friends.

2 Have this conversation with two other students. One of you is Andy. The others are assistants at the Paris Fashion Week. Andy's asks the assistants for advice. One tells her she must go back to New York. The other tells her she must stay until after the party.

FINAL TASKS

1 Andy changes the way she looks in this story. Have you ever changed your look? Do you know someone who has? Describe the 'before' and 'after' differences.

2 Everyone in the *Runway* world talks about designer names. Are designer names important, do you think? Why / Why not? Talk to other students.

3 You are starting a new job as a magazine writer. Choose a big story from today's news. Write 100-200 words about it for your magazine.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Look at the 'New Words' at the back of *The Devil Wears Prada*.

1 Find words with these meanings.

1. You do this to your boyfriend or girlfriend.
2. When the phone does this, sometimes you jump.
3. To get a job you usually have to have this.
4. You need to practise before making one of these.
5. Something small but often important.
6. You seem almost dead when you are in this.
7. Don't forget this when you travel to another country.
8. People often meet in this part of a hotel.
9. When something very bad happens, people often do this.
10. Life in a big family with no money can be this.

2 Tick the best option.

1. She lost her job and her flat. Her problems were serious. perfect.
2. He wore Armani clothes and he looked editorial. fabulous.
3. She was so excited when they fired her. published her book.
4. He really frightened me. I thought he was the devil. an assistant.
5. The person who decides on the stories for a magazine is the designer. the editor.

Casual language

- **'Go for it.'** (p.10). Alex means: 'It's a really good idea and you should do it.'
- **'To die for.'** (p.12). Emily means she really, really loves this skirt. You can use this expression about almost anything you really like.
- **'(I didn't) get it.'** (p.18). Andy means she doesn't understand why Miranda is so important to everyone else at *Runway*.
- **'Get lost!'** (p.46.) This is rude and means 'I want you to go away.' Only use this when someone has done something very bad to you.

Choose the right expression to complete the sentences.

1. 'I know she's horrible, but you have to be nice to her.'
'Why? I don't
2. 'You don't listen. You never listen. And you've done it wrong again!'
'.....'
3. 'Look at this dress! Isn't it fabulous?'
'I know. It's
4. 'They want to give me a job as a writer. What do you think?'
'.....'

THE BOOK AND THE MOVIE (pages 48–9)

Presentation: From book to movie

Students work in pairs. They choose a book or story they would like to film. They decide where to film it, who will act the main parts and what music they will have. They present their ideas to the class.

THE TRUE COST OF FASHION (pages 50–1)

Discussion / research: Your jeans

Ask: *How many people does it take to get a pair of jeans onto a shelf in a shop?* Students estimate how many people might be involved. Then they read the fact file and make a list of all the people involved in the creation and sale of a pair of fashion jeans. They can then expand this by adding their own ideas or by carrying out some research on the Internet, asking fashion retailers, etc. Build up a list on the board with the class. Get them to look up vocabulary for jobs they don't know. Were they close to the total with their first guess?

Debate: Are cheap clothes a good thing?

Divide the class in two. Give them time to prepare arguments for and against the idea of cheap clothes, and then have a class debate with a vote at the end. Possible ideas:

For: *we don't have much money so we have to buy cheap clothes, we can keep up with new fashions, they provide jobs for people around the world*

Against: *the planet will run out of resources, the clothes companies don't pay their workers enough, we should pay the actual cost of the clothes, quality is more important than quantity*

THE WORLD OF MAGAZINES (pages 52–3)

Interview: My job

Students work in pairs. One of them is a journalist and the other has an interesting job. They role-play an interview, using the interview with Emma as a model. Invite pairs to perform their role-play for the class.

Project: News-stand

Everyone in the class chooses a different publication – a newspaper or a magazine. They find out information about the publication and use it to prepare a profile, including either a copy of the publication or a photo of a front cover. Get each student to include an opinion in their profile – would they recommend it or not? Display all the profiles for the class.

DVD FOLLOW-UP

What's next?

Select a key scene from the DVD before the class. Play part of the scene and stop it at a point before something important happens. In groups, students discuss what is going to happen next. Groups tell the class their ideas. Play the rest of the scene. Which group(s) were right? Remember that the story in the film is different in some places from the story in the book.

CD FOLLOW-UP

Prepare some questions that require short answers on the next chapter in the reading schedule. Write them on the board. Play the CD recording of the chapter. Students write their answers to the questions as they listen.

Example questions for Chapter 4:

What shoes is Andy wearing? (red trainers)

What shoes does she change into? (Jimmy Choos)

Andy calls her by the wrong name. What does she call her? (Ms. Priestly)

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 54–6)

- a) serious b) fabulous c) tough d) perfect
- a) lobby b) passports c) interviews d) assistant
- a) Wrong. She really wants to work for *The New Yorker*. b) Right c) Wrong. She doesn't have any designer clothes in her cupboard. d) Wrong. She loves it. e) Right. f) Wrong. One Harry Potter book arrives. g) Right.
- a) vi b) v c) iv d) i e) iii f) vii g) ii
- a) Miranda b) Nigel c) Lily d) Christian e) Emily f) Alex g) Miranda
- a) Because she's really ill. b) Lily – she's drinking too much. c) Because her plane was late. d) Because she's just made a terrible speech. e) She gives her orders in front of the other guests. f) She's going to call people at *The New Yorker*. g) She must home because Lily is in hospital.
- The correct order is: d, a, f, g, c, e, b.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- b) Christian Collinsworth c) Emily d) Nigel e) Miranda Priestly
f) Lily g) Alex

Chapters 1–2

- 1 First name:** Andrea **University:** Brown, Providence
Subject: English **Has she worked on magazines before?** No
Does she dress well? No
Has she heard of Miranda Priestly? No
What magazines does she read? *The New Yorker, Time, Newsweek* **Is she right for this job?** No
- b) vi c) iv d) ii e) i f) v
- a) She wants to work in magazines – this is the only offer she gets.
b) She's not interested in fashion and she doesn't care.
c) Open answers.

Chapters 3–4

- b) before c) doesn't know d) angry e) Lily
f) still doesn't understand
- b) Andy c) Miranda d) Andy e) Christian Collinsworth
- Possible answers:**
She likes San Pellegrino, the Bulletin, being called Miranda, her newspapers and magazines in the correct order on her desk, people to do what she tells them.
She doesn't like talking about unimportant things, red trainers, being called Ms. Priestly.

Chapters 5–6

- Possible answers:** b) She must change her look to keep her job.
c) She already has a boyfriend.
d) She had lunch a few minutes before.
e) She's two hours late. It's nearly midnight and he has work to do for the next day.
- b) ✓ c) ✓ d) ✗ e) ✗ f) ✗ g) ✓

Chapters 7–8

- Possible answers:** a) Miranda's Chanel dress.
b) She's got a new boyfriend and thinks she's in love.
c) She likes him, but she likes Alex more.
d) Miranda said it was in the *Post*. She didn't say the *Washington Post*. e) Miranda has class. They don't have class.
f) Miranda seems sad and alone.
- b) eating > drinking c) early > late d) long > short
e) wonderful > terrible

Chapters 9–10

- b) ✓ c) ✗ d) ✓ e) ✓ f) ✓ g) ✗ h) ✓ i) ✓

Vocabulary Builder

1. kiss 2. rings 3. interview 4. speech 5. detail 6. coma
7. passport 8. lobby 9. panic 10. tough
1. serious 2. fabulous 3. published her book. 4. the devil
5. the editor

Casual language

1. get it 2. Get lost! 3. to die for 4. Go for it