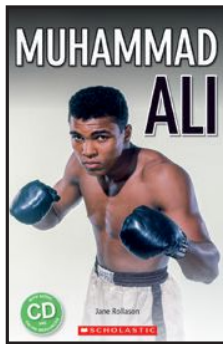


A **FREE** RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS!

MUHAMMAD ALI

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

In 1954 a young boy has his new bike stolen. He's angry and ready to punch someone. At that moment, by chance, he meets a man who will change his life. The boy is Cassius Clay, and the police officer turns him into a boxer.

While he's concentrating on his sport, the young Cassius is also learning about life for black people in a country governed by white people. There is segregation in his home state of Kentucky, and he sees things that are wrong.

Cassius turns professional and wins fight after fight. He moves to Miami, to work with the best trainer in America. He works hard, he learns, and he develops his own style.

In 1964 he fights and beats Sonny Liston, the Heavyweight Champion of the World. The win gives him the confidence to show the world who he really is: a proud black man who has found a home in the Muslim religion. He changes his name to Muhammad Ali.

Ali continues to box, winning all his fights and becoming more and more popular. But then he refuses to fight in the Vietnam War because he believes it's wrong. For three years, he is not allowed to fight, but his actions help to turn the American people against the war.

When Ali is allowed to fight again, he has lost his best years. People still love to watch him and listen to him. He always has time for fans and ordinary people.

He continues to box long after his body has had enough. He learns that he has Parkinson's Disease.

Ali retires from the ring but not from life. He continues to make humanitarian trips all over the world, helping and inspiring people who have nothing.

When he died in 2016, President Barack Obama said, 'Ali was America', and most people agreed that he was a very special man.

THE BACK STORY

This reader tells the story of one of sport's most celebrated heroes, Muhammad Ali. Long articles about Ali in newspapers around the world showed that Ali had a special place in the hearts of Americans and sports fans everywhere. People loved his skill, style and personality.

Ali's story is more than a boxing story, and is not just for boxing fans. It's also the story of America in the second part of the twentieth century.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: *Ali* (2001) stars Will Smith as Ali. This film is rated 15, however, so parts of it will not be suitable for the classroom. *When We Were Kings* (1996) tells the story of the Rumble in the Jungle. *The Trials of Muhammad Ali* (2013) focuses on Ali's political life, and his refusal to fight in Vietnam; this film contains racist language and is rated 12. *I Am Ali* (2014) is a gentle portrait of Ali the man, telling his story through interviews with people close to him.

CD: An audio recording of *Muhammad Ali* accompanies the Scholastic Reader.

Visits/Internet: The Muhammad Ali Center is based in Louisville, Kentucky. The official Ali website is muhammadali.com. There are many clips of Ali on chat shows, fighting and making political speeches on YouTube.com.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have your students heard of Muhammad Ali? Try to generate interest by showing a clip of Ali, or 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 section 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 5 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.

Glossary

Go to '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 4 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

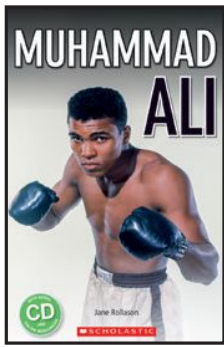
Fact File

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. They focus on the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and boxing as a sport for both men and women.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *Muhammad Ali*. Compare opinions. Will they find out more about Ali? Did you like it? Let us know at elt@scholastic.co.uk.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



MUHAMMAD ALI

Pages 4–7

1 Match the two halves of these sentences.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| a) When he was born, Muhammad Ali was called ... | i) the world's best boxers. |
| b) Cassius moved to Miami ... | ii) Cassius Clay. |
| c) Angelo Dundee was ... | iii) four wives. |
| d) Ali beat ... | iv) Ali's trainer. |
| e) Ali had ... | v) when he was 20 years old. |

2 Look at page 6. Find boxing words to match these definitions.

- a) You wear these on your hands to box. gloves
- b) A boxer rests here between rounds.
- c) These people are watching the fight.
- d) This person stops the fight if there are problems.
- e) This is the floor of the boxing area.

Prologue–Chapter 2

1 Read the Prologue. Circle the correct word in italics.

Cassius's new bike was (a) red and white / blue and gold.
 It cost (b) 16 / 60 dollars. His (c) *mum and dad* / brother Rudolph bought it for him. When someone (d) *took* / found Cassius's bike, he (e) *was* / wasn't angry. He told a (f) *police officer* / club worker, whose name was Joe Martin. Joe didn't (g) *find* / take Cassius's bike, but he invited Cassius to join his (h) *boxing* / cycling club.

2 Read Chapter 1. Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

black exams gold happy Harlem Louisville pink
 show slave toilets white

- a) The Clay house was a happy home.
- b) The family name Clay came from a white owner.

- c) When he was a child, Cassius couldn't get a drink of water in a shop because he was
- d) Two men killed Emmet Till because he called out to a woman.
- e) Whites and blacks had to use different in some states.
- f) Cassius loved being on Joe Martin's Friday night local TV
- g) Cassius did well in the boxing ring but not in his school
- h) The young boxer was amazed to see black city life in
- i) Cassius loved Sugar Ray Robinson's Cadillac.
- j) At the Rome Olympics, aged just 18, Cassius won a medal for boxing.
- k) Cassius had an Olympic medal but he couldn't eat in Whites Only restaurants in

3 Read Chapter 2. Answer the questions.

- a) What was a 'dark business'?
boxing
- b) What did the Louisville millionaires offer Cassius?

- c) Who said Cassius Clay was 'as fast as lightning'?

- d) What was 'hot and noisy and full of fighters'?

- e) How did Cassius become a 'brilliant boxer'?

- f) Who did Cassius make jokes about?

- g) Where is 'the home of boxing'?

- h) Who went in 'five rounds'?

- i) Which World Champion was Cassius ready to fight?

4 Talk to a partner. From the age of 18, Cassius began to travel with his eyes wide open. What did he learn about life in these places?

- Harlem
- the Olympic village in Rome
- Miami
- London

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Chapters 3–4

1 Read Chapter 3. Correct these sentences. Write the correct words.

- a) Sonny Liston left school because the other students ~~were scared of~~ *laughed at* him.
- b) Cassius was on the front cover of *Time* magazine because he was the best fighter in the world.
- c) The older sports writers liked Cassius because he was so different.
- d) When Cassius first faced Sonny Liston in the ring, he knew he would win.
- e) In the fifth round, Cassius nearly won the fight.
- f) After the fight, everyone said that he was the greatest.

2 Read Chapter 4. Put these sentences in the order they happen.

- a) Ali beats Zora Folley in New York.
- b) Ali receives a letter from Martin Luther King saying 'Well done!'
- c) Cassius joins the Nation of Islam.
- d) He changes his name to Muhammad Ali.
- e) He marries Sonji Ray.
- f) He travels to Africa and gets a hero's welcome.
- g) Some men kill Malcolm X.

3 Lots of famous people wanted to meet Ali and get a photograph with him, including the Beatles. Which celebrities would you most like to take a photograph with? Make a list of your top five. Compare your list with a partner's.

Chapters 5–6

1 Read Chapter 5. Answer the questions.

- a) Why didn't Ali want to fight the Vietcong?
He felt he couldn't and his religion would not allow it.
- b) Why did the government stop Ali from leaving the United States?
.....
- c) How long did Ali have to wait for his appeal?
.....
- d) When did Ali marry Belinda Boyd?
.....
- e) What did Ali do when he couldn't box?
.....
- f) Why was Ali unhappy with his life as a TV and Broadway star?
.....

2 Read Chapter 6. Write the names.

- a) Who did Ali beat in his first fight for more than three years?
Jerry Quarry
- b) Who was Heavyweight Champion of the World in 1970?
.....
- c) Who broke Ali's jaw in 1971?
- d) Who broke Ali's jaw in 1973?
- e) Who became Heavyweight Champion of the World in Jamaica in 1973?
- f) Who won the 'Rumble in the Jungle' in Zaire, Africa?
.....
- g) Who invited Ali to the White House in 1974?
.....

3 Work with a partner. You are at the 'Rumble in the Jungle' for a local English-speaking radio station. Read page 40 again and write about the fight. Imagine you are there, so use the present tenses. Write about the crowd, the heat. Is it noisy? Are people excited?

Chapters 7–Epilogue

1 Read Chapter 7. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a) Joe Frazier called Ali a 'gorilla' when they fought in Manila.
- b) Ali introduced his wife Belinda to President Marcos.
- c) It was nearly 50°C when Ali and Joe fought in Manila.
- d) Ali retired seconds before Joe Frazier during the Manila fight.
- e) Ali and Joe met and held hands when they were older.
- f) Ali refused to listen to his doctor and retire.
- g) Ali became Champion of the World when he was thirty-six years old.

2 Read Chapter 8. Answer these questions.

- a) Who looked after Ali's money and business interests?
Lonnie Williams
- b) Where did Ali's face appear in people's homes?
.....
- c) Where did Ali visit local hospitals?
.....
- d) Why did Ali visit Saddam Hussein in 1990?
.....
- e) Where did the world see Ali in 1996?
.....

3 Read the Epilogue. Work with a partner. Write one sentence to describe Ali and his life.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

4 Think back over the whole story. What was happening in Ali's life when he said these things?

- a) 'I'm fast. I'm pretty. And I always win!'
When he won the Olympic title in 1960.....
- b) 'This is no jive, He'll go in Five.'
.....
- c) 'Float like a butterfly, Sting like a bee.'
.....
- d) 'I shook up the world!'
.....
- e) 'What's my name?'
.....
- f) 'I have no fight with the Vietcong.'
.....
- g) 'Can't you hit me harder than that, George?'
.....

FINAL TASKS

- 1 Choose one of the photographs in the reader. Write a long caption to go with the photograph, saying who is in the picture, what is happening and why it is in the news.**
- 2 Who is your favourite sports person? Why? Write sentences saying why you admire him / her.**
- 3 Imagine it is 1960 and Ali has just returned to Louisville, Kentucky with his Olympic gold medal. He's with his brother Rudolph. He wants to go into a restaurant which has a 'Whites Only' sign outside. Rudolph doesn't want to go in. Write their conversation outside the restaurant.**
- 4 Why were these things important in Muhammad Ali's life?**
 - a red and white bike
 - a pink Cadillac
 - the Nation of Islam
 - the Vietnam War
 - Kinshasa
 - the 1996 Olympics

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Look at the 'New Words' at the back of Muhammad Ali.

1 Who is speaking? Write the name of the speaker next to each sentence.

champion crowd heroes **opponent** leader slave

- 1. "Don't think you're going to beat me. I'm going to win this match." **opponent**.....
- 2. "We love you Chelsea, we do, we love you ..."
- 3. "We are going to save this country. We are going to fight until the end!"
- 4. "I have no money, no rights and I cannot leave this place."
- 5. "I am the best! I have beaten everyone!"
- 6. "You must follow me. I know where I am going."

2 Use these words to complete the sentences.

cut **jaw** law lightning medals prison style

- 1. I've been talking so much that my **jaw** hurts.
- 2. Michael Phelps has won more Olympic than any other sports person.
- 3. The of your clothes says a lot about you.
- 4. The boy fell off his bike and he has a big on his face.

- 5. The man took the gold and they sent him to
- 6. The storm went on all night. There was and heavy rain.
- 7. You can't drive a car until you're 17. It's against the

3 Circle the correct words in italics.

- 1. The people are going to *appeal* / *defeat* against the plan to build a new airport.
- 2. Cassius went to his *local* / *normal* Christian church as a boy and then he changed his *religion* / *information* and became a Muslim.

Casual Language

1 Match these casual expressions to the more formal meanings:

- a) ain't b) folks c) gonna

- 1. people
- 2. going to
- 3. are not

2 Put the phrases into the correct sentences.

- 1. "I'm fight that guy."
- 2. "He pretty. I'm pretty."
- 3. "White..... are welcome in my life."

FACT FILE FOLLOW-UP

CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE USA TODAY (pages 24–5)

Research

There is a new civil rights movement in the USA called #BlackLivesMatter. In pairs, students research this group or a similar group in their country. They find out what kind of organisation it is, how it communicates and what its aims are. They prepare a presentation for the class or write a report.

THE VIETNAM WAR (pages 32–3)

Writing a scene or a dialogue

Many stories have been written and filmed about the Vietnam War. In small groups, students choose a book, play or film set during this time. They choose an episode and write their own short dialogue or scene based on that episode. They rehearse their scene and then act it out for the class.

THE SPORT OF BOXING (pages 50–1)

True or false?

Before students look at the Fact File, write these questions on the board. Students look at the Fact File and find the answers as quickly as they can.

- Boxing matches were safe in Greek and Roman times.
- A men's boxing match can last up to thirty six minutes.
- You can punch your opponent's legs during a fight.
- Doctors don't think that boxing is bad for your brain.
- Women were allowed to box in Britain in 1948.
- Ali's daughter beat Joe Frazier's daughter in the ring.
- Two-fifths of boxers in Britain are women.

(Answers: a) False – boxers often killed their opponents
b) True c) False – you cannot hit below the belt d) False
e) False – it was 1998 f) True g) False – it's one-fifth)

Debate

Divide the class in two teams. Team A argues in favour of boxing. Team B argues that boxing should be banned. Give students time to plan and research arguments, choose a speaker and prepare questions to ask the other side. Students argue for their team even if they don't agree with it.

Each side presents its case. Teams question each other. Note important arguments and vocabulary on the board during the debate. Finish with a class vote.

CD FOLLOW-UP

CD: Gap-fill tasks

Choose a paragraph of text in the reader. Copy the paragraph and blank out every 10th word on the copy. Now make enough copies for each student in the class. Play the same paragraph on the CD. Students fill in the gaps.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 52–5)

- a) trainer b) opponent c) champion d) leader e) slave f) hero
- a) prison b) gym c) medal d) title e) lightning f) crowd g) knocked down h) cut
- a) government, law b) local c) style d) punch e) retire f) defeated
- Open answers.
- a) His bike b) The white areas c) Because they didn't want to live with black people. d) Because he called out to the white woman. e) New York and Rome f) A hero's welcome

- a) Sugar Ray Robinson > Tunney Hunsaker
b) didn't enjoy > loved c) Cuba > Miami/from the Cuban boxers
d) being famous than in training hard > in training hard than being famous e) and beat him > but didn't beat him
- Open answers.
- a) the ideas you believe about god or gods b) surprised
- a) How to box b) Because he loved talking c) Scared
d) He couldn't see e) Heavyweight Champion of the World
- a) T b) T c) F. He went secretly. d) F. Ali left Sonji.
e) F. He wasn't always nice to his opponents.
- Open answers.
- a) appeal b) jaw
- a) Because the government needed more men to fight.
b) He felt the war was wrong and against his religion.
c) 1. They took his titles. 2. He couldn't box. 3. He couldn't leave the U.S. 4. They gave him five years in prison (but in fact he never went). 5. He had to pay \$10,000.
d) Three years e) He gave talks at universities, he worked on TV shows and he appeared in a musical.
- The correct order is: b, d, a, e, c, f.
- 15 & 16 Open answers.
- a) Joe Frazier b) Veronica Porsche c) Ali d) Belinda/Khalilah Ali
e) Ferdie Pacheco, his doctor f) Leon Spinks
- a) T b) F. Lonnie was 15 years younger than Ali. c) T d) F. He stayed a Muslim. e) F. He still travelled to help people. f) T

Resource Sheet Activities

Pages 4–7

- b) v c) iv d) i e) iii
- b) corner c) crowd/audience d) referee e) canvas

Prologue – Chapter 2

- b) 60 c) mum and dad d) took e) was f) police officer
g) find h) boxing
- b) slave c) black d) white e) toilets f) show g) exams
h) Harlem i) pink j) gold k) Louisville
- b) good money c) Tunney Hunsaker d) the 5th Street Gym
e) He watched and learned, and worked and trained.
f) His opponents g) London h) Henry Cooper i) Sonny Liston
- Open answers.

Chapters 3–4

- b) the best fighter in the world > interesting and good-looking
c) liked > didn't like d) he knew he would win > he was scared
e) won > lost f) everyone > Cassius
- The correct order is: c, d, b, e, f, g, a.
- Open answers.

Chapters 5–6

- b) Because he wouldn't fight in Vietnam. c) More than three years. d) In 1967 e) He gave talks at universities and went on TV. f) Because he wanted to box.
- b) Joe Frazier c) Joe Frazier d) Ken Norton e) George Foreman
f) Muhammad Ali g) President Gerald Ford
- Open answers.

Chapters 7–Epilogue

- b) F. He introduced his girlfriend Veronica Porsche. c) T d) F. Joe retired seconds before Ali was ready to retire. e) T f) T g) T
- b) On boxes of Wheaties. c) In Cuba. d) To bring 15 American prisoners home from Iraq. e) At the Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Open answers.
- b) Before his fight with Henry Cooper in London. c) Before his fight with World Champion Sonny Liston. d) After his fight with Sonny Liston. e) In the ring with Ernie Terrell. f) When he refused to go to Vietnam. g) During the Rumble in the Jungle.

Vocabulary Builder

2. crowd 3. heroes 4. slave 5. champion 6. leader
2. medals 3. style 4. cut 5. prison 6. lightning 7. law
1. appeal 2. local, religion

Casual Language

1. c 2. a 3. b
1. gonna 2. ain't 3. folks