

# James Bond, aged 13 (Sun 24 Apr, 2005)

## WARM-UPS

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about: teenagers / James Bond / adolescence / teenage problems / Sean Connery, Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan / children's books / superspies... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**JAMES BOND / 007 BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with James Bond or 007. Talk about words with your partner.

**BEING 13:** What was life like as a 13-year-old? (1) Talk with your partner / group about your memories of your earliest teens. Was it a good or difficult time? (2) In pairs / groups, imagine being 13 again. Talk to each other as 13-year-olds about life today.

**JAMES BOND:** Talk with your partner about the British superspy. Who is your favorite actor to play 007? What is your favorite Bond movie song? What is your favorite James Bond gadget? What is your favorite Bond movie? A list of movies is below:

- Dr. No (1962)
- From Russia With Love (1963)
- Goldfinger (1964)
- Thunderball (1965)
- Casino Royale (1967)
- You Only Live Twice (1967)
- On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969)
- Diamonds Are Forever (1971)
- Live And Let Die (1973)
- The Man With The Golden Gun (1974)
- The Spy Who Loved Me (1977)
- Moonraker (1979)
- For Your Eyes Only (1981)
- Never Say Never Again (1983)
- Octopussy (1983)
- A View To A Kill (1985)
- The Living Daylights (1987)
- Licence To Kill (1989)
- GoldenEye (1995)
- Tomorrow Never Dies (1997)
- The World Is Not Enough (1999)
- Die Another Day (2002)

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS:** In pairs / groups, talk about children's books. Who is / was your favorite author? Which characters did you like best? Are there any children's authors from your country who are (or should be) famous internationally? Which of the following writers / books would you encourage your children to read?

- J.K. Rowling (Harry Potter series)
- Hans Christian Andersen (Fairy tales)
- Aesop (Many famous fables)
- Roald Dahl (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory)
- Dr Seuss (Green Eggs and Ham)
- A.A. Milne (Winnie the Pooh)
- Lewis Carroll (Alice's Adventures in Wonderland)
- Michael Ende (The Never Ending Story)
- Kenneth Graham (Wind in the Willows)
- Tove Jansson (Finn Family Moomintroll)
- Rudyard Kipling (Jungle Book)
- J.R.R. Tolkein (The Hobbit)
- E.B. White (Charlotte's Web)

## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'school' and 'boy'.

**TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. There is now an official illustration of James Bond, aged thirteen. T / F
- b. The 13-year-old James Bond looks identical to the adult 007. T / F
- c. The illustration depicts him as being very smart and stylish. T / F
- d. In the picture he looks absolutely nothing like the 007 actors. T / F
- e. The Bond creator's family strongly objected to the illustration. T / F
- f. A new book about the schoolboy James sold badly in bookshops. T / F
- g. His first mission is to hunt down al-Qaeda operatives in Afghanistan. T / F
- h. The writer said the illustration made it easier to write the book. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |     |            |               |
|-----|------------|---------------|
| (a) | depicting  | fan           |
| (b) | sleuth     | gangly        |
| (c) | suave      | piece of work |
| (d) | lanky      | spy           |
| (e) | faintest   | obnoxious     |
| (f) | aficionado | exploits      |
| (g) | offering   | showing       |
| (h) | villainous | slightest     |
| (i) | unsavory   | wicked        |
| (j) | deeds      | polished      |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |     |                          |                            |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) | Ever wanted              | and sophisticated          |
| (b) | a drawing                | alive                      |
| (c) | suave                    | the shelves                |
| (d) | sporting a mop of        | in my mind                 |
| (e) | you'll see the faintest  | depicting the sleuth       |
| (f) | long time Fleming        | of resemblances to Connery |
| (g) | hit                      | deeds                      |
| (h) | villainous and dastardly | to know...?                |
| (i) | picturing the young Bond | aficionado                 |
| (j) | really come              | messy hair                 |

**GAP-FILL:** Fill the gaps with the words in the column on the right.

### **James Bond, aged 13**

**BNE:** Ever wanted to know what a teenage James Bond looked like? Well now you have your chance to find out. The family of Ian Fleming, \_\_\_\_\_ of 007, has approved of a drawing \_\_\_\_\_ the sleuth in his schoolboy days. The young Bond is very different from the \_\_\_\_\_ and sophisticated man he grows up to be. The illustration, to be used on the cover of a new set of children's books about the schoolboy Bond, shows a lanky, \_\_\_\_\_ James in baggy pants, sporting a mop of messy hair. Naturally, he is a dashing lad and has no \_\_\_\_\_, crooked teeth, nor any other teenage horrors. And if you look closely enough, you'll see the faintest of \_\_\_\_\_ to Connery, Moore and co.

*suave*  
*creator*  
*adolescent*  
*resemblances*  
*depicting*  
*acne*

The young Bond books are written by long time Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ Charlie Higson. His first \_\_\_\_\_, *Silver Fin*, was a bestseller the instant it \_\_\_\_\_ the shelves in early April. The novel portrays James as a public schoolboy at Eton. His first mission is to foil the villainous and \_\_\_\_\_ deeds of an \_\_\_\_\_ American classmate's villainous father. Mr Higson said the illustration of the superspy as a schoolboy greatly helped him develop the youth's character: "The hardest thing when writing *Silver Fin* was \_\_\_\_\_ the young Bond in my mind...Now I know what he looks like. Young Bond and his world have really come \_\_\_\_\_."

*dastardly*  
*alive*  
*unsavory*  
*offering*  
*picturing*  
*aficionado*  
*hit*

### **HOMEWORK**

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on James Bond. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. 13 YEARS OLD:** Write something about your life as a 13-year-old. Read it to you classmates in your next lesson.
- 4. 007/13:** Write an outline of a story for the next "James Bond, Aged 13" novel. Show it to your classmates in your next lesson.

## DISCUSSION:

- a. Did you like this article?
- b. Was there anything in the article that raised your eyebrows?
- c. Before reading this article, had you ever envisaged a young James Bond?
- d. What do you think of having a teenage James?
- e. What are your favorite children's books? Why do you like them?
- f. Are there any children's authors you would prohibit your children from reading?
- g. Are the children's writers from your country the best?
- h. Would you like to know about the adolescence of other heroes?
- i. Would you want to see George W. Bush or Bill Gates, aged 13?
- j. What were you like as a thirteen-year-old?
- k. Do you like looking at photos of yourself in your early teens?
- l. What adjective would you use to describe your adolescence and why?
- m. Do you have good or bad recollections of being thirteen?
- n. Would you like to be thirteen again?
- o. Do you like James Bond?
- p. Why do you think James Bond movies are so successful?
- q. Which of his gadgets do you like best?
- r. Can you easily recall the James Bond theme song and opening titles?
- s. Would you like to be a superspy?
- t. Would you like to be / date James Bond?
- u. Is James Bond the quintessential British gentleman?
- v. Did you like this discussion?
- w. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## TEXT:

### James Bond, aged 13

**BNE:** Ever wanted to know what a teenage James Bond looked like? Well now you have your chance to find out. The family of Ian Fleming, **creator** of 007, has approved of a drawing **depicting** the sleuth in his schoolboy days. The young Bond is very different from the **suave** and sophisticated man he grows up to be. The illustration, to be used on the cover of a new set of children's books about the schoolboy Bond, shows a lanky, **adolescent** James in baggy pants, sporting a mop of messy hair. Naturally, he is a dashing lad and has no **acne**, crooked teeth, nor any other teenage horrors. And if you look closely enough, you'll see the faintest of **resemblances** to Connery, Moore and co.

The young Bond books are written by long time Fleming **aficionado** Charlie Higson. His first **offering**, *Silver Fin*, was a bestseller the instant it **hit** the shelves in early April. The novel portrays James as a public schoolboy at Eton. His first mission is to foil the villainous and **dastardly** deeds of an **unsavory** American classmate's villainous father. Mr Higson said the illustration of the superspy as a schoolboy greatly helped him develop the youth's character: "The hardest thing when writing *Silver Fin* was **picturing** the young Bond in my mind...Now I know what he looks like. Young Bond and his world have really come **alive**."