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Level 5

Hit musical 'Cats' gets rap song

10th July, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

The hit musical 'Cats' has had a makeover for its comeback in London in December. One of the traditional songs will be a rap. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, wants the musical to be updated to appeal to a new generation of theatre-goers. 'Cats' is based on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" by the famous British writer T. S. Eliot. It is about a group of cats who must decide which cat gets to come back to life. 'Cats' first opened in London in 1981 and in New York in 1982. It won many awards and ran for twenty-one years in the English capital.

The character Rum Tum Tugger will perform the rap. He is a rebellious street cat. Lloyd Webber said: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is going to have to become a street cat for today and he has to do hip-hop." He added that the 1930s poem that the cat sings has a strong rap rhythm. He joked that T.S. Eliot was the world's first rapper, saying: "I've come to the conclusion...that maybe Eliot was the inventor of rap." The show's producer said the rap was for, "a whole generation of kids who haven't seen 'Cats'". He said parts of the musical could "be reinvigorated in very contemporary terms".

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/theatre/theatre-news/10951867/Cats-classic-musical-to-feature-a-rapping-cat.html>
<http://www.standard.co.uk/goingout/theatre/andrew-lloyd-webbers-hit-musical-cats-gets-hiphop-twist-as-it-returns-to-west-end-9589096.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cats_%28musical%29

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. The hit musical 'Cats' has had | a. of theatre-goers |
| 2. One of the traditional songs | b. writer T. S. Eliot |
| 3. updated to appeal to a new generation | c. in the English capital |
| 4. 'Cats' is based | d. group of cats |
| 5. the famous British | e. a makeover |
| 6. It is about a | f. on a famous book |
| 7. decide which cat gets to | g. will be a rap |
| 8. ran for twenty-one years | h. come back to life |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. He is a rebellious | a. of rap |
| 2. become a street cat for today and he | b. rhythm |
| 3. the 1930s | c. terms |
| 4. a strong rap | d. generation of kids |
| 5. He joked that T.S. Eliot was the | e. street cat |
| 6. the inventor | f. poem |
| 7. a whole | g. has to do hip-hop |
| 8. in very contemporary | h. world's first rapper |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

The hit musical 'Cats' (1) _____ for its comeback in London in December. One of the (2) _____ be a rap. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, wants the musical (3) _____ to (4) _____ theatre-goers. 'Cats' is based on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" by the famous British writer T. S. Eliot. It is (5) _____ who must decide which cat gets to come back to life. 'Cats' first opened in London in 1981 and in New York in 1982. It won (6) _____ for twenty-one years in the English capital.

The character Rum Tum Tugger (7) _____. He is a rebellious street cat. Lloyd Webber said: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is going to have to become a street cat for today (8) _____." He added that the 1930s (9) _____ sings has a strong rap rhythm. He joked that T.S. Eliot (10) _____ rapper, saying: "I've come to the conclusion...that maybe Eliot was the inventor of rap." The show's producer said the rap was for, "(11) _____ kids who haven't seen 'Cats'". He said parts of the musical could "be reinvigorated in (12) _____".

RAP SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rap in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

Write about **rap** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
