

ISABEL ALLENDE

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Isabel Allende is considered to be among the greatest ever Latin American novelists. Her very successful novels are a mix of reality and mysticism. They are often based on her own experiences of life and of being a woman. She travels the world giving lectures and promoting her books. In 2003 she became a US citizen and currently lives in California with her family.

Allende was born in Lima, Peru in 1942. Her father was the Chilean ambassador. She is a distant cousin of former Chilean president Salvador Allende. Her family moved around a lot when she was young because of the political uncertainty in Chile in the 1960s. She grew up and went to school in Chile, Bolivia and Lebanon, where she learnt English.

Allende got married when she was 20. She became successful early on and had a variety of jobs. She was a well-known TV personality and a journalist for a feminist magazine. Between 1959 and 1965, she worked for the UN in Chile and Belgium. She also translated romantic novels from English to Spanish, which sparked her desire to write.

Pablo Neruda, a famous Chilean poet, told Allende she had too much imagination to be a journalist and should write novels instead. In 1981, she started writing her dying grandfather a letter. This eventually transformed into her first best seller 'The House of the Spirits' (1982). Allende was immediately compared to Gabriel Garcia Marquez. More best sellers, awards and international acclaim followed.

246 words
Flesch Kinkaid 9.1

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. considered | a. combination |
| 2. mix | b. was educated |
| 3. promoting | c. changeability |
| 4. former | d. thought |
| 5. uncertainty | e. ex- |
| 6. went to school | f. publicizing |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 7. variety | g. creativity |
| 8. journalist | h. started |
| 9. sparked | i. praise |
| 10. imagination | j. mixture |
| 11. transformed | k. reporter |
| 12. acclaim | l. changed |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. among the greatest | a. and mysticism |
| 2. a mix of reality | b. to be a journalist |
| 3. promoting | c. uncertainty in Chile |
| 4. a distant | d. international acclaim followed |
| 5. the political | e. desire to write |
| 6. She became successful early | f. cousin |
| 7. sparked her | g. ever Latin American novelists |
| 8. she had too much imagination | h. her books |
| 9. Allende was immediately compared | i. on |
| 10. More best sellers, awards and | j. to Gabriel Garcia Marquez |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Isabel Allende is considered _____ greatest ever Latin American novelists. Her very successful novels _____ and mysticism. They are often based on her own experiences of life and of being a woman. She travels _____ lectures and _____. In 2003 she became a US citizen and currently lives in California with her family.

Allende was born in Lima, Peru in 1942. Her father was the Chilean ambassador. She is _____ former Chilean president Salvador Allende. Her family _____ when she was young because of the _____ in Chile in the 1960s. She _____ to school in Chile, Bolivia and Lebanon, where she learnt English.

Allende got married when she was 20. She became _____ and had a variety of jobs. She was a well-known TV personality and a journalist _____ magazine. Between 1959 and 1965, she worked for the UN in Chile and Belgium. She also translated _____ English to Spanish, which _____ to write.

Pablo Neruda, a famous Chilean poet, told Allende _____ imagination to be a journalist and should _____. In 1981, she started writing her dying grandfather a letter. _____ transformed into her first best seller 'The House of the Spirits' (1982). Allende was immediately compared to Gabriel Garcia Marquez. More best sellers, awards and international _____.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Isabel Allende is considered to be *between* / *among* the greatest ever Latin American novelists. Her very successful novels are a *max* / *mix* of reality and mysticism. They are often based on her own experiences of life and of being a woman. She travels the world giving *lecture* / *lectures* and *promoting* / *prompting* her books. In 2003 she became a US citizen and currently lives in California with her family.

Allende was born in Lima, Peru in 1942. Her father was the Chilean *embassy* / *ambassador*. She is a *distant* / *far* cousin of former Chilean president Salvador Allende. Her family moved around a *lot* / *loads* when she was young because of the political uncertainty in Chile in the 1960s. She *grew* / *grown* up and went to school in Chile, Bolivia and Lebanon, where she learnt English.

Allende got married when she was 20. She became successful early *off* / *on* and had a variety of jobs. She *as* / *was* a well-known TV personality and a *journalist* / *journalism* for a feminist magazine. Between 1959 and 1965, she worked for the UN in Chile and Belgium. She also translated romantic novels from English to Spanish, which *sparked* / *sparkled* her desire to write.

Pablo Neruda, a famous Chilean poet, *said* / *told* Allende she had too *much* / *many* imagination to be a journalist and should write novels instead. In 1981, she *started* / *starting* writing her dying grandfather a letter. This eventually transformed into her first best seller 'The House of the Spirits' (1982). Allende was immediately compared *for* / *to* Gabriel Garcia Marquez. More best sellers, awards and international acclaim followed.

SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. gnoam the greatest ever Latin American novelists
2. a mix of arileyt and mysticism
3. otrignomp her books
4. unlecrty lives in California

Paragraph 2

5. Her father was the Chilean sadmarobsa
6. She is a ttsidan cousin
7. Her family dmevo around a lot
8. political ityeaurncnt in Chile

Paragraph 3

9. a yirveat of jobs
10. a iniftsem magazine
11. She also translated namortic novels
12. kdpreas her desire to write

Paragraph 4

13. a famous Chilean ptoe
14. she had too much tiaaonmingi
15. This nlelaevtuy transformed into her first best seller
16. adremocp to Gabriel Garcia Marquez

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () woman. She travels the world giving lectures and promoting her books. In 2003
- () Allende was born in Lima, Peru in 1942. Her father was the Chilean ambassador. She is a distant
- () Isabel Allende is considered to be among the greatest ever Latin American novelists. Her very successful novels are a
- () she became a US citizen and currently lives in California with her family.
- () magazine. Between 1959 and 1965, she worked for the UN in Chile and Belgium. She also translated romantic
- () uncertainty in Chile in the 1960s. She grew up and went to school in Chile, Bolivia and Lebanon, where she learnt English.
- () Pablo Neruda, a famous Chilean poet, told Allende she had too much
- (**1**) Allende got married when she was 20. She became successful early
- () on and had a variety of jobs. She was a well-known TV personality and a journalist for a feminist
- () novels from English to Spanish, which sparked her desire to write.
- () cousin of former Chilean president Salvador Allende. Her family moved around a lot when she was young because of the political
- () imagination to be a journalist and should write novels instead. In 1981, she started writing her dying grandfather
- () immediately compared to Gabriel Garcia Marquez. More best sellers, awards and international acclaim followed.
- () a letter. This eventually transformed into her first best seller 'The House of the Spirits' (1982). Allende was
- () mix of reality and mysticism. They are often based on her own experiences of life and of being a

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. greatest Latin novelists the ever American among

2. are on experiences They based own life often her of

3. travels She lectures giving world the

4. was family a she Her around when young moved lot

5. the in Chile in uncertainty political the 1960s

6. She early became on successful

7. novels She also translated romantic

8. imagination she to had be too a much journalist

9. her writing started she letter a grandfather dying

10. This seller best first her into transformed eventually

ISABEL ALLENDE DISCUSSION:

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Isabel Allende?
2. Would you like to have met Isabel Allende?
3. What would you like to know about Isabel Allende and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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ISABEL ALLENDE DISCUSSION:

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Isabel Allende?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Isabel Allende?
3. What would her answers have been to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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ISABEL ALLENDE SURVEY:

Write five questions about Isabel Allende in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

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

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

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 more information about Isabel Allende. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ISABEL ALLENDE POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Isabel Allende. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Isabel Allende. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she did every day and what she thought about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Isabel Allende. Ask her three questions about her life. Tell her how important she is in today's world and how she is missed. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Isabel Allende expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
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| 2. mix | b. combination |
| 3. promoting | c. publicizing |
| 4. former | d. ex- |
| 5. uncertainty | e. changeability |
| 6. went to school | f. was educated |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

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|-----------------|---------------|
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| 8. journalist | h. reporter |
| 9. sparked | i. started |
| 10. imagination | j. creativity |
| 11. transformed | k. changed |
| 12. acclaim | l. praise |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. among the greatest | a. ever Latin American novelists |
| 2. a mix of reality | b. and mysticism |
| 3. promoting | c. her books |
| 4. a distant | d. cousin |
| 5. the political | e. uncertainty in Chile |
| 6. She became successful early | f. on |
| 7. sparked her | g. desire to write |
| 8. she had too much imagination | h. to be a journalist |
| 9. Allende was immediately compared | i. to Gabriel Garcia Marquez |
| 10. More best sellers, awards and | j. international acclaim followed |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.