



Worksheet 10a Who needs heroes?



Heroes used to have an air of authority and dignity. Think Winston Churchill. Think Tim Henman, or even David Beckham. However, the latest hero is like none of these: instead he is a raw teenager from Liverpool who happens to be very clever at kicking a football.

At least Beckham is handsome. His face can sell anything from cola to aftershave. But what could you sell with Rooney's Shrek looks? Spuds? Yorkshire pudding?

He doesn't even make an effort. Beckham looks as though he's been taken round the posh shops of Europe. Poor Wayne, on the other hand, looks like he's just come from a charity shop and nowhere that a razor was ever sold. What's going on?

Who needs heroes anyway? But there are plenty of people who seem to worship Rooney and all the other boring, bad-tempered, bickering footballers.

The sooner we grow up and stop looking for heroes the better.

Listen to music; enjoy it, but don't expect its snarling stars to do anything for the world.

Go to the cinema; laugh, cry, but don't forget that actors are just ordinary people who get photographed a lot.

Support a football club, but don't paper your walls with the players' faces – especially if you are prone to nightmares.

Worksheet 10b Who needs heroes? (teacher's guide)

<p>Assertion – no evidence</p>	<p>Heroes used to have an air of authority and dignity. Think Winston Churchill. Think Tim Henman, or even David Beckham. However, the latest hero is like none of these: instead he is a raw teenager from Liverpool <u>who happens to be</u> very clever at kicking a football.</p>	<p>Short informal sentences</p> <p>'Happens to be' – makes it sound accidental</p>
<p>Links back to introduction. Contrasts with Rooney</p>	<p>At least Beckham is handsome. His face can sell anything from cola to aftershave. But what could you sell with Rooney's Shrek looks? Spuds? Yorkshire pudding?</p>	<p>Insult – tries to be funny</p>
<p>Rhetorical question – establishes connection with the reader</p>	<p>He doesn't even make an effort. Beckham looks as though he's been taken round the posh shops of Europe. <u>Poor</u> Wayne, on the other hand, looks like he's just come from a charity shop and nowhere that a razor was ever sold. What's going on?</p>	<p>Makes him sound pathetic</p>
<p>Makes Beckham look like a kid</p>	<p>Who needs heroes anyway? But there are plenty of people who seem to worship Rooney and all the other <u>boring, bad-tempered, bickering</u> footballers.</p>	
<p>Alliteration – makes footballers seem silly</p>	<p>The sooner we grow up and stop looking for heroes the better.</p>	<p>Assertion – just like in newspaper opinion columns</p>
<p>Three instructions to the reader</p>	<p><u>Listen to music</u>; enjoy it, but don't expect its snarling stars to do anything for the world.</p> <p><u>Go to the cinema</u>; laugh, cry, but don't forget that actors are just ordinary people who get photographed a lot.</p> <p><u>Support a football club</u>, but don't paper your walls with the players' faces – especially if you are prone to nightmares.</p>	<p>A final insult</p>