



Jonathan Yeo's King Charles III (B1 -Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Have you ever had your portrait painted?
2. If so, who painted it? If not, would you like to?
3. Do you think portraits should be expressionistic or realistic? Why?
4. Should they make the subject look more attractive? Why (not)?
5. Can you name any of your country's famous portrait painters of the present or past?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Nobody liked Jonathan Yeo's portrait of King Charles III.
2. Yeo was worried about the response to his portrait.
3. He says he didn't know what King Charles really looked like till he began painting him.
4. Yeo became famous around 20 years ago.
5. He has already painted some members of the Royal Family.
6. It took Yeo over two years to complete the portrait.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What were some of the criticisms about the portrait of Charles III?
2. What was unusual about it?
3. What aspect of Charles's character did Yeo want to express?
4. How did Yeo create his unauthorised portrait of US president George W. Bush?
5. What happened during the time Yeo was working on Charles's portrait?
6. How many times did King Charles have to pose for the picture?
7. Why did Yeo paint a butterfly above the King's shoulder?
8. What surprised the King when he first saw the painting?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. There are reporters outside the police station. The chief of police is about to make a _____.
2. This report's awful. We can't send it to the manager. It's so _____ written!
3. A helicopter was _____ over the town centre last night. I wonder what it was doing.
4. Fingerprints were first used to identify criminals in the _____ 20th century.
5. The finance minister finally _____ her plans for the economy yesterday afternoon.
6. The committee will discuss this matter at its next _____ in September.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

Jonathan Yeo was born in London in 1970. As a child, he had ¹_____ idea he would one day become a famous artist. In fact, he wanted to become a film director.

Yeo's parents ²_____ him to an exclusive private school, at ³_____ he felt out of place because he was not very academic. However, at the ⁴_____ of ten he won a school pottery prize and realised he could be creative.

He didn't start painting ⁵_____ he was in his early twenties and suffered from cancer. While he was recovering from it, he taught ⁶_____ to paint.

F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's best-known contemporary painters. Mention:

- where he/she is from;
 - when he/she was born;
 - what kind of pictures he/she paints;
 - what his/her best-known works are.
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Answers: Jonathan Yeo's King Charles III

B – Listen and answer

1. F – Some liked it and said it was mysterious and powerful.
2. F – He was unperturbed.
3. F – He says he'd known all his life what King Charles looked like.
4. T
5. T
6. T

C – Read and answer

1. Some of the criticisms were that the portrait was disturbing, satanic or poorly painted.
2. The King is surrounded by vivid red.
3. He wanted to express Charles's deep humanity.
4. He used pornographic images cut out of magazines.
5. Queen Elizabeth died and Charles became king.
6. Four times.
7. Because it was a symbol of Charles's metamorphosis from prince to king and his interest in the environment.
8. The strong colour surprised him at first.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. statement
2. poorly
3. hovering
4. early
5. unveiled
6. session

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. no
2. sent
3. which
4. age
5. until/till
6. himself