

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Stevie Wonder: The Music Maestro

Stevie Wonder, a musical genius and icon, has graced the world with his incredible talent, infectious melodies, and inspirational lyrics for decades. In this reading passage, we will delve into the life and music of Stevie Wonder, exploring his remarkable career and the impact he has had on the music industry.

### Early Life and Musical Prodigy

Born Stevland Hardaway Judkins on May 13, 1950, in Saginaw, Michigan, Stevie Wonder showed an extraordinary musical gift from a very young age. Despite being born prematurely and losing his eyesight shortly after birth, he developed an exceptional ability to play multiple instruments and sing with incredible prowess.

### Early Success and Signing with Motown

Stevie's talent was recognized early, and he was signed by the legendary Motown Records at the age of 11. Under the guidance of Berry Gordy, he released his first album, "The Jazz Soul of Little Stevie," and soon after, his hit single "Fingertips (Part 2)" catapulted him to stardom. He became one of Motown's youngest and most successful artists.

### Evolution of His Music

Over the years, Stevie Wonder's music evolved significantly. He transitioned from the youthful exuberance of his early Motown hits to more complex and socially conscious themes. Albums like "Talking Book" and "Innervisions" showcased his maturity as a songwriter and musician. Hits like "Superstition" and "Living for the City" displayed his ability to blend various musical genres, including funk and soul.

### Songwriting and Activism

Stevie Wonder's songwriting not only entertained but also carried important messages. He penned songs like "Higher Ground" and "Living for the City" that tackled issues of social justice, equality, and the human experience. His music became a soundtrack for both the civil rights movement and the broader struggle for equality.

### Influence and Legacy

Stevie Wonder's influence on the music industry is immeasurable. His ability to craft timeless melodies and thought-provoking lyrics earned him numerous awards, including 25 Grammy Awards. His impact extends beyond music, as he has been a champion for disability rights and global humanitarian causes.

