

Name _____



Whitney Houston: The Voice of a Generation

Whitney Houston was a musical sensation whose voice captivated audiences around the world. In this reading passage, we will explore the life and music of this iconic artist, from her early days to her rise to stardom.

Early Life and Musical Heritage

Whitney Elizabeth Houston was born on August 9, 1963, in Newark, New Jersey. She came from a musical family, with her mother, Cissy Houston, being a renowned gospel singer and her cousin, Dionne Warwick, a celebrated pop artist. Whitney's talent was evident from a young age, and she began singing in church choirs.

Stardom Beckons

Whitney's journey to stardom began when she signed with Arista Records in 1983. Her self-titled debut album, released in 1985, set the stage for her meteoric rise. The album featured hit singles like "Greatest Love of All" and "Saving All My Love for You." Whitney's powerful and soulful voice was unlike anything the music industry had seen, and she quickly became a sensation.

The Soundtrack of Success

One of Whitney's most significant achievements came with her role in the movie "The Bodyguard," where she played a music superstar. The film's soundtrack featured Whitney's rendition of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You," which became a global phenomenon. The song spent a record-breaking 14 weeks at the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Struggles and Triumphs

Despite her immense talent and success, Whitney faced personal challenges, including struggles with substance abuse. However, she also experienced triumphs, such as her marriage to Bobby Brown and the birth of their daughter, Bobbi Kristina.

A Legacy of Hits

Throughout her career, Whitney released numerous hit albums, including "Whitney," "Whitney Houston," and "My Love Is Your Love." Her songs, such as "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," "How Will I Know," and "Where Do Broken Hearts Go," remain beloved classics.

Enduring Influence

Whitney Houston's impact on the music industry and her influence on future generations of artists are immeasurable. Her powerful voice and emotive performances continue to inspire singers worldwide.

