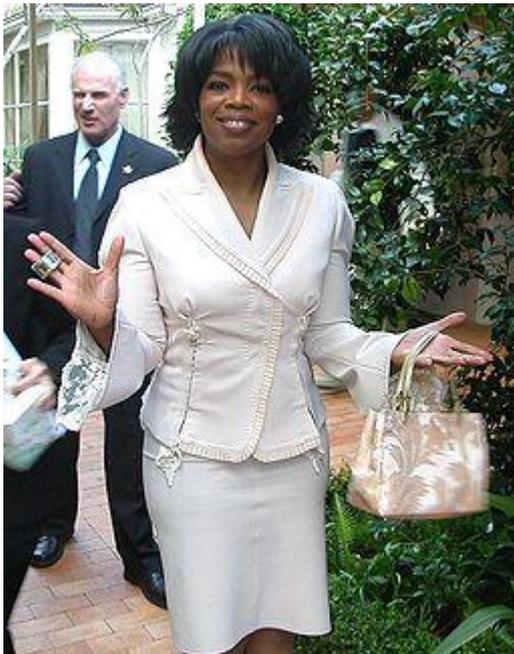


Grade 9 Life Orientation Worksheet

Positive personal qualities - Oprah Winfrey

Positive personal qualities – case study

Oprah Winfrey



Winfrey at her 50th birthday party at [Hotel Bel-Air, Los Angeles](#), in 2004.

Henley-on-Klip near Johannesburg, in January 2007.

What you might not know is that as a young child Oprah Winfrey was very poor. She was born to a single teenage mother in rural Mississippi. Her mother was a housemaid and her father was a coal miner. Her grandmother, who was very poor, raised her at first and taught her to read before the age of three. Later she lived with her mother in an inner-city Milwaukee neighbourhood. Her childhood was very hard. She was raped at the age of 9 and became pregnant at age 14. Her son died in infancy.

As a teenager she was sent to live with the man she calls her father, a barber in Tennessee. While Oprah was still in high school she landed a job in radio and began anchoring the local evening news at age 19. Then she was transferred to daytime talk shows and later launched her own production company. Now Oprah Winfrey is known throughout the world for her talk shows, her radio programmes, her magazines and her book show. She is one of the richest and most powerful women in the world.

Most people will recognise this lady.

You may have seen Oprah Winfrey on television, presenting her talk show. You may have seen her picture on the cover of the “O” magazine. You may even know that she has been to South Africa many times to help children affected by poverty and AIDS. Perhaps you also know that she opened the Oprah Winfrey Academy for Girls in

Grade 9 Life Orientation Worksheet

Questions:

1. How did Oprah Winfrey become so well known? [4]
2. How do you think Oprah managed to become so successful despite her impoverished childhood? [4]
3. What personal qualities do you think Oprah has that helped her succeed? [4]
4. Why do you think that Oprah has spent so much money and time helping disadvantaged girl children in South Africa and other countries? [4]
5. What lessons could you learn from Oprah's story?

Grade 9 Life Orientation Worksheet

Suggested Solutions

| Question Number | Possible marks | Solution |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 20 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Through her television shows, her radio programmes, her magazine, her book club, her charity work, etc. [4]2. She did not feel sorry for herself, or blame her poor background. She worked hard and built her own wealth using her god-given talent. [4]3. Personal answer, e.g. courage, self-motivation, talent, acting ability, good voice, etc. [4]4. Personal answer, e.g. she wants to help girls from poor families because of her own background, etc. [4]5. Personal answer. [4] |