

**Grade 8****Reading Autobiography****Journey to Stardom: The Oprah Winfrey Story**

Passage: Oprah Winfrey, born on January 29, 1954, in Kosciusko, Mississippi, rose from a life of hardship to become one of the most influential and successful figures in the entertainment industry. Oprah's early life was filled with challenges; she was born to a teenage mother and faced poverty, abuse, and discrimination. However, her innate talent and resilience would guide her through these tough times.

Oprah's grandmother played a crucial role in her early education, teaching her to read before the age of three. She quickly developed a love for books and storytelling, skills that would later define her career. Despite her difficult childhood, Oprah excelled academically and became involved in her school's drama club, winning a full scholarship to Tennessee State University.

At the university, Oprah studied communications and found her passion for media and broadcasting. Her exceptional speaking and interviewing skills landed her a job at a local radio station, and she soon moved on to television, becoming the first African American female news anchor at Nashville's WLAC-TV.

Oprah's empathy and ability to connect with people made her a natural for the world of talk shows. In 1984, she moved to Chicago to host the struggling morning show, "AM Chicago." Within months, her warmth and relatable personality turned the show into a hit, and it was renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

The show broke new ground in television, addressing sensitive and taboo topics, and providing a platform for ordinary people to share their stories. Oprah's genuine interest in the well-being of her guests and audience resonated with millions, making her show the highest-rated talk show in the United States for 25 years.

Off the screen, Oprah used her influence and wealth to give back to society. She became a philanthropist, supporting various charitable causes and starting her own foundation to provide scholarships for underprivileged students. She also established the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa, helping to educate and empower young women.

In 2011, Oprah ended her talk show to focus on her network, OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network), continuing to inspire and entertain her audience. She has also made significant contributions to the world of literature, starting a book club that has turned unknown authors into bestsellers.

Oprah Winfrey's journey from a small town in Mississippi to becoming a global icon is a testament to her strength, determination, and compassion. She has touched millions of lives, using her platform to promote education, equality, and self-empowerment, leaving an indelible mark on the world.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Where was Oprah Winfrey born?

- A) Nashville, Tennessee
- B) Chicago, Illinois
- C) Kosciusko, Mississippi
- D) Johannesburg, South Africa

2. What role did Oprah's grandmother play in her early education?

- A) She encouraged her to overcome difficult exams.
- B) She taught her to read.
- C) She encouraged her to become an actress.
- D) She discouraged her from pursuing media.

3. What was Oprah's first job in media?

- A) A news anchor for WLAC-TV
- B) A talk show host
- C) A radio show host
- D) An actress

4. What significant role did Oprah achieve at Nashville's WLAC-TV?

- A) She became the first African American female news anchor.
- B) She became the director.
- C) She started her own talk show.
- D) She became a camera operator.

5. What was the original name of "The Oprah Winfrey Show"?

- A) Oprah's Hour
- B) Chicago Live
- C) AM Chicago
- D) The Morning Show

6. For how many years was "The Oprah Winfrey Show" the highest-rated talk show in the United States?

- A) 10 years
- B) 15 years
- C) 20 years
- D) 25 years

7. What did Oprah start in South Africa?

- A) A radio station
- B) A television network
- C) A leadership academy for girls
- D) A bookstore

8. What was Oprah's major at Tennessee State University?

- A) Drama
- B) Literature

C) Communications

D) Political Science

9. What does OWN stand for?

A) Oprah Winfrey Network

B) Oprah's World Network

C) Oprah Winfrey News

D) Oprah's Wonderful Network

10. What is one of Oprah's major contributions to the world of literature?

A) Writing a bestselling novel

B) Starting a book club

C) Opening a library

D) Teaching literature

1. Answer: C) Kosciusko, Mississippi *Explanation: The passage mentions that Oprah Winfrey was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi.*
2. Answer: B) She taught her to read. *Explanation: Oprah's grandmother played a crucial role in her early education, teaching her to read before the age of three.*
3. Answer: C) A radio show host *Explanation: Oprah's exceptional speaking and interviewing skills landed her a job at a local radio station.*
4. Answer: A) She became the first African American female news anchor. *Explanation: Oprah became the first African American female news anchor at Nashville's WLAC-TV.*
5. Answer: C) AM Chicago *Explanation: Oprah moved to Chicago to host the struggling morning show, "AM Chicago," which was later renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show."*
6. Answer: D) 25 years *Explanation: "The Oprah Winfrey Show" was the highest-rated talk show in the United States for 25 years.*
7. Answer: C) A leadership academy for girls *Explanation: Oprah established the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa.*
8. Answer: C) Communications *Explanation: At Tennessee State University, Oprah studied communications.*
9. Answer: A) Oprah Winfrey Network *Explanation: OWN stands for Oprah Winfrey Network.*
10. Answer: B) Starting a book club *Explanation: Oprah has made significant contributions to the world of literature, starting a book club that has turned unknown authors into bestsellers.*