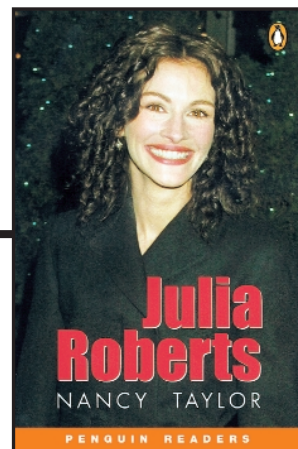


Penguin Readers Factsheets

Teacher's Notes

Julia Roberts

by Nancy Taylor



Easystarts Julia Roberts

About Easystarts

Easystarts are Penguin Readers written to the lowest level in the Penguin Readers series. They are specially written originals, using 200 headwords and the simplest grammatical structures.

There are more than twenty titles to choose from across a range of styles and subject matter. All titles are in full color, with carefully selected photos and/or artwork which helps to guide early learners of English. There is one page of activities at the back of each book.

Penguin Readers Easystarts provide pleasurable reading for all tastes at an appropriate level of difficulty.

Summary

Julia Roberts is one of the most popular and famous actresses in the world. In 2001 she won her first Oscar—for Best Actress. How did a girl from a small American town become so successful? This is the story of her life from childhood to the present day. The book is illustrated with photographs of all stages of her life and covers some of her most important films and off-set romances.

Julia's story starts in 1967. Her childhood was not always easy and by the time she was ten she had experienced upheaval and loss. But Julia is determined to become an actress and works hard to look for roles in TV and movies. She quickly becomes known in Hollywood.

Julia's big break is in 1989 when she gets the leading role in *Pretty Woman* with Richard Gere. Suddenly Julia is a superstar. A number of well-paid roles follow. She has several romances too, including her 21-month marriage to musician Lyle Lovett. The highlight of her career is her 2001 Oscar award for her role in *Erin Brockovich*. Does her marriage to cameraman Daniel Moder, in May 2002, mean she has found success and happiness in her personal life too?

Background and themes

- Success and happiness: Many of Julia's movies are successful but several are not. Also, in her personal life Julia experiences times of great difficulty as well as of happiness.
- Perseverance: Julia is successful because she keeps trying. When times are hard it's important to think about your experiences, learn some lessons, and try again.
- Hollywood lifestyle and romance: Julia has a glamorous lifestyle in the movies. She works with famous people, wears beautiful clothes, has some exciting romances and earns millions of dollars.

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the reader.

BEFORE YOU READ

- 1 Students look at the front cover of the book. Ask students to list as many adjectives as they can about Julia Roberts. They can work individually or in pairs. Encourage them to describe Julia's appearance in this photograph (happy, brown eyes, etc.) as well as find words to describe what they might know about her as a person (rich, famous, etc.) Finally, ask students to give their answers and write the words on the board. Explain any new vocabulary as necessary.
- 2 Students look at the photos on pages 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 15 of the book. Ask students to work in pairs and talk about these questions:
 - How old is Julia in each picture?
 - What is she doing in each picture?
 - In which pictures does she look happy/beautiful? Why?

Then discuss students' answers as a whole class. Is Julia's life happy, do they think?

AFTER YOU READ

Students make a timeline of Julia's life. They can write key dates from her life on the left hand side of their page, and the corresponding events (simple notes, not full sentences) on the right hand side. They can look at the text to do this. Walk round and give help where necessary. Finally, as a written or spoken activity, ask students to close their books and look at their timeline in order to re-tell the story of Julia Roberts.

Extra words

There are twenty extra words, in addition to the 200 headwords, used in each Easystart title. The extra words used in this title are practiced in questions 2 and 3 at the back of the reader for teacher and students. They are:

actor/actress award born businessman die
director divorce fall in love fun high school hit
much many musician role serious superstar
wedding win/winner world



Penguin Readers Factsheets

Student's activities

Easystarts

Julia Roberts

Photocopiable

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

- 1 Read the back of the book. Think about this question: 'How does a girl from a quiet town find the big lights of Hollywood?' Talk to another student about it.

ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

Pages 1–4

- 1 Write the correct word in the sentences below:
actor actress born dies divorce fun
high school many much
 - (a) There are _____ actors in the movie.
 - (b) There is _____ love in Julia's family.
 - (c) My sister is sixteen. She has _____ at _____.
 - (d) Julia Roberts is a famous _____.
 - (e) Tom Cruise is a famous _____.
 - (f) Julia is _____ in Atlanta in 1967.
 - (g) Julia's mother and father get a _____ in 1972.
 - (h) Julia's father, Walter, _____ in 1977.
- 2 Look at the sentences below. Some words are wrong. Write the right words.
 - (a) Julia Roberts is small and beautiful. She's a famous doctor and people love her children.
 - (b) Walter and Betty love high school. They start a theater for old actors in a big hotel in Atlanta.
 - (c) At twenty years old Julia has her beautiful smile. But before the smile she is not always happy.
 - (d) Julia is heavy at Campbell High School. She likes games, dances, money, movies and problems.

Pages 5–8

- 1 Write the correct words in the sentences below:
award businessman director fall in love
role superstar
 - (a) *Pretty Woman* is a love story about a _____ and a beautiful woman.
 - (b) After *Pretty Woman* Julia Roberts is a _____.
 - (c) Steven Spielberg is a famous movie _____.
 - (d) People watch Julia and _____ with her.
 - (e) Julia wins an _____ for her _____ in *Steel Magnolias*.
- 2 Are the sentences right or wrong?
 - (a) Julia goes to actors' school in New York.
 - (b) Julia Roberts and Eric Roberts have roles in *Blood Red*.
 - (c) Julia gets a small role in *Mystic Pizza* in 1987.
 - (d) Julia falls in love with Herb Ross in 1988.
 - (e) Julia Roberts is not a superstar before *Pretty Woman*.

Pages 9–11

- 1 Write the correct words in the sentences below:
hit musician wedding
 - (a) Julia falls in love with Kiefer Sutherland but there is no _____.
 - (b) In 1992 *Sleeping with the Enemy* is a big _____.
 - (c) In 1993 Julia meets a tall, quiet _____, Lyle Lovett.
- 2 Answer the questions:
 - (a) When does Julia fall in love with Kiefer Sutherland?
 - (b) How many movies does Julia make in 1991?
 - (c) Is *Hook* a hit?
 - (d) How much money does *The Pelican Brief* make?
 - (e) Who does Julia fall in love with in 1993?

Pages 12–15

- 1 Write the correct words in the sentences below:
serious wins world
 - (a) *Michael Collins* is a _____ film.
 - (b) Julia Roberts is famous around the _____.
 - (c) Julia _____ an Oscar in 2001 for *Erin Brockovitch*.
- 2 Are the sentences right or wrong?
 - (a) Julia is with Lyle Lovett for four years.
 - (b) Julia is very unhappy in 1995.
 - (c) *Mary Reilly* is a big hit.
 - (d) Julia meets Benjamin Bratt in Hollywood.
 - (e) Julia's wedding with Daniel Moder is in 2002.
 - (f) Julia is always happy in 1997–2001.
 - (g) Julia is the first \$20,000,000 actress.
 - (h) Julia wins an Oscar for her role in *Erin Brockovitch*.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- 1 You are Walter Roberts. It is 1972. Write a letter to Lisa and Julia.
- 2 You are Julia Roberts. It is 1984. Write about your time at school. What do you do? Who do you see at school? Do you have fun?
- 3 How many movies are there in the book? Do you know these movies? Talk about them with another student. Do you like Julia Roberts in these movies?

