

The Brida Journal- Lesson

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The journal for learners of English, by learners of English

Welcome to the course: “Stories and Impressions”. This course is designed for level B2 upwards.

Michèle, a retired schoolteacher, read a book which impressed her. Let’s find out, shall we?

In this course you will:

1. Translate 14 words describing the actions of a famous person.
2. Answer 10 questions connected to the article.
3. Answer 5 questions about a person who has impressed you.
4. You saw an act of kindness or generosity and you want to share this with a friend. You ring or send a WhatsApp
5. Contribute to any discussions with other people who have done this course.

Extras

6. Watch some videos (in French) about the author and the subject.
7. Look at some pictures about Blanche Peyron and her achievements.
8. You can download the lesson outline to do offline.

Stories and Impressions

Michèle read a book about a courageous woman.

This week, I read a recent book from Laetitia Colombani, entitled « Les Victorieuses ».

It speaks about a woman who is a lawyer and who, after a burnout, will become a volunteer in a reception centre for women in difficulties and find again meaning in her life there. This foster home is the « Palais de la Femme » which actually exists in Paris, in the eleventh district.

Thanks to this novel, I discovered the enormous work of two people, Blanche and Albin Peyron, I didn't know they existed, until now. Blanche is a woman with astonishing fate. She was born in 1867 in Lyon. When she was 17, she met one of the pioneers of the Salvation Army in France, a woman nicknamed la Maréchale. This encounter was decisive: she left everything to get involved in the Salvation Army, she wanted to help the poorest, the most disadvantaged, whatever their faith. She married Albin Peyron, also engaged in the fight against misery. Together, they dedicated their life and their energy to the poorest.

But if Blanche is famous, it is best because she had the audacity to lead the Armée du Salut in an incredible challenge. In the 1920's, a large hotel on Rue Charonne was for sale for several million francs, at the time. She was sure that the building (with 630 rooms) was the perfect place to welcome many single and homeless women, who roamed Paris and were exposed to all the dangers. She organized several major fundraising campaigns and brought together the sum of eleven million francs, necessary for the purchase and the work to be carried out. And the goal was reached! The Palais de la Femme was officially inaugurated in 1926.

Today, almost one hundred years later, this Palais remains faithful to its vocation, it welcomes women (and now also men) in search of a home.

Vocabulary

1	Lawyer	
2	After a burnout	
3	Women in difficulties	
4	This foster home	
5	Thanks to this novel	
6	A woman nicknamed	
7	To help the poorest	
8	The most disadvantaged	
9	Had the audacity	
10	Who roamed Paris	
11	Were exposed to all the dangers	
12	Fundraising campaigns	
13	The goal was reached	
14	Officially inaugurated	

Writing Exercise

1. What did Michèle do?
2. What is the story about?
3. Is this story based on fact?
4. What did this story also give Michèle?
5. Who did Michèle focus on?
6. What did this person do?
7. Describe what her goal was.
8. How did she achieve this goal?
9. How long ago was this goal achieved?
10. What is the legacy?

Writing Exercise 2.

1. Which real person do you admire?
2. Why do you admire this person?
3. Explain a little, what this person did?
4. What is the legacy left by this person?
5. How has this influenced your life?

Speaking or WhatsApp Exercise

Exercise 1

You saw somebody performing an act of kindness or generosity today while you were doing something. You want to share this experience with a friend. Speak or write to this friend.

1. Greet your friend as friends normally do.
2. Write a positive opening sentence.
3. Describe where you were and what you were doing.
4. Say what you saw, go into some details.
5. Say why it impressed you.
6. Say a positive closing sentence.
7. Say goodbye.

Exercise 2

You are the friend who has received the above message. You give a respond.

1. Greet your friend as friends normally do.
2. Write a positive opening sentence.
3. Respond to the situation as you wish.
4. Suggest a meeting.
5. Say a positive closing sentence.
6. Say goodbye.