SYNOPSIS

Bob Marley tells the story of the world-famous Jamaican singer’s life and career. Marley was born in 1945 in a small town in Jamaica. His mother, Ciddy, was a black Jamaican, and his father was a much older white man, Norval Marley. Bob saw very little of his father and was brought up by his mother and her family. As a child, Bob was aware that people often treated him differently because of the lighter colour of his skin.

When Bob was twelve, his mother moved with him to Kingston, where they lived in the poor area of Trench Town. Bob developed his interest in music, along with friends Neville ‘Bunny’ Livingston and Peter Tosh. The friends formed a band and recorded their first song in 1963. The Wailing Wailers quickly became popular in Jamaica. Around 1967, the band began working with a producer called Lee ‘Scratch’ Perry, and together they found a new sound for the band. This sound was reggae. Bob was also becoming increasingly interested in the religious ideas of Rastafarianism, and these beliefs were evident in his music.

International success came soon after the band began recording for Island Records in London, but Bunny Livingston and Peter Tosh did not stay with the band. Bob put together a new line-up, which included his wife, Rita. Bob Marley and the Wailers toured the world and made a number of albums which were all very successful.

In the 1970s there was much political unrest in Jamaica. In 1976, Bob agreed to play a concert to help end political violence in the country. Shortly before the concert, a gunman tried to shoot Bob and Rita. But they survived and the band went on to play. Bob continued to mix politics with his music, playing at the ‘One Love’ peace concert in Jamaica two years later, and in Africa to celebrate Zimbabwe’s independence from Britain.

Bob Marley was at the height of his fame when he learned that he had cancer. He died in 1981 at the age of only 36. Today Bob Marley’s music and his message of peace and hope are still hugely popular around the world.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: In 2012 the film documentary Marley was released.
CD: A recording of Bob Marley is available to accompany this Scholastic Reader. The music of Bob Marley and the Wailers is available on CD or as downloads.
Internet: For more information, visit the official Bob Marley website at www.bobmarley.com.
Books: There are numerous Bob Marley biographies, which include Bob Marley: The Untold Story by Chris Salewicz and Catch a Fire: The Life of Bob Marley by Timothy White.
People and places

Circle the correct words in italics.

a) Bob’s mother and daughter/wife were both called Cedella.

b) Bob was born in the city/country.

c) There were three/nine musicians in Bob’s first band.

d) Bob moved to 56 Hope Road/Trench Town when he was young.

e) 56 Hope Road was in Kingston/Nine Miles.

Chapters 1–2

1 Answer the questions.

a) Why did Norval Marley leave his new wife?
   ……………………………………………………………

b) How did the young Bob Marley spend his free time?
   ……………………………………………………………

c) Why did Ciddy move to Kingston?
   ……………………………………………………………

d) In Trench Town, who were ‘rude boys’?
   ……………………………………………………………

e) How did Bob meet singer Desmond Dekker?
   ……………………………………………………………

f) What kind of music was ska music?
   ……………………………………………………………

g) What change did Leslie Kong make on Bob’s first record?
   ……………………………………………………………

2 Read ‘A History of Jamaica’ (pages 14–15) and match the columns to make sentences.

| a) The Arawak people | i) in 1834. |
| b) The Spanish | ii) worked on sugar and coffee farms. |
| c) Many slaves | iii) were the first people on Jamaica. |
| d) Britain ended slavery | iv) first brought slaves from African countries to Jamaica. |
| e) Britain continued to rule Jamaica | v) until 1962. |

Chapters 3–4

1 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

   Peter Tosh

a) Bob, Neville and Joe Higgs formed a band called The Wailing Wailers.

b) The Wailing Wailers played in the local cinema at night.

c) Coxsone Dodd knew when the look of a band was right.

d) ‘Systems Men’ had film equipment on their cars.

e) In the US Bob worked in a music studio.

f) Haile Selassie visited Ethiopia in April, 1966.

g) For Rastafarians, the colour blue is a sign of hope.

2 Look at ‘The Birth of Reggae’ (pages 26–27) and discuss these questions with a partner.

a) Which of the musicians on this page did you already know?

b) Which musicians would you like to hear more of now? Why?

Chapters 5–6

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences in your notebook.

   F. He wanted rock fans to like it too.

a) Chris Blackwell wanted to change the band’s sound so that young people would like it too.

b) There was a different version of the Catch a Fire album for Jamaica.

c) Chris Blackwell asked the band to tour Jamaica.

d) Joe Higgs took Bunny Livingston’s place in the band.

e) In the song ‘No Woman, No Cry’, Bob sings about his early life in Nine Miles.

f) In the song ‘War’, Bob used the words of Haile Selassie.

2 Complete the sentences with these names.

   Chris Blackwell     Cindy Breakspeare     Bunny Livingston
   Rita Marley     Peter Tosh

   a) ……………………… found life on the road difficult because of his Rastafarian beliefs.

   b) ……………………… won the Miss World beauty competition.

   c) ……………………… allowed Bob and the band to use his house in Kingston.

   d) ……………………… did not like Chris Blackwell’s ideas.

   e) ……………………… sang with the I-Threes.

3 What do you think? How did Bob feel after Neville and Peter left the band? Discuss your ideas with a partner.
VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Choose the correct words from the ‘New Words’ at the back of your reader.

1. A record with several songs on it. ...........................................
2. A singer might win this. ..................................................
3. A place where musicians record music. ..................................
4. This person helps singers to make records. .........................
5. People with the same skin colour. ....................................... 
6. A place for the bodies of the dead. .......................................
7. A woman who is going to have a baby is this. ....................... 
8. A country which rules itself has this. ......................................

2 Circle the correct answer.

1. Who joins pieces of metal?
   a producer / a welder
2. Which do you play with sticks?
   a bass guitar / drums
3. Where can you see a crowd?
   at a gig / at a studio
4. Which do most people want?
   peace / violence
5. What do fans of a band do?
   produce / support
6. Who sometimes rules a country?
   a dictator / a slave
7. Which kills a lot of people?
   cancer / funeral
8. Which do you find in a theatre?
   stage / station

Casual language

‘over’ (p.10, p.28 and p.45). This can be used to say that something has finished. When Bob moves to the city with his mother, ‘his time as a country boy was over’.

‘hit’ A record that is successful and popular is described as a ‘hit’. For example, the live version of ‘No Woman, No Cry’ became ‘a huge hit’ (p.33).

‘drop’ (p.30). When you stop including somebody in a game or performance, you ‘drop’ them. Singer Sly Stone ‘dropped the Wailers’ from a concert.

Complete the sentences with the Casual language expressions.

1. ‘Have you heard this song? It’s going to be a …………………… I’
2. A: Sorry I’m late.
   B: Where have you been? The meeting’s already …………………… !
3. He wasn’t playing well so they decided to …………………… him from the team.
FACT FILE FOLLOW-UP

JAMAICA (pages 56–57)

Tourist brochure
Remind students that the tourist business is very important to the Jamaican economy. Ask students to work in small groups to create a brochure to attract tourists to the island. They can research facts about the island’s climate, geography, attractions, food and culture. If possible, they could use photos from the Internet. When the students have completed their brochures, let the class decide which one is the most attractive.

Debate
‘Rich countries such as the US, Britain and Spain should support the Jamaican economy because of the history of slavery.’ Write this statement on the board and debate the issue with the class. Begin by discussing the economic problems facing Jamaica (crime, poverty). Then discuss the island’s history of slavery: students could look again at ‘A History of Jamaica’ (pages 14–15). Divide the class into small groups, each one either for or against the statement. Each group writes down their ideas and nominates a spokesperson to present them. Chair the debate, allowing each spokesperson to speak in turn. Finally, the students vote independently for or against the statement.

FAMOUS JAMAICANS (pages 58–59)

Fact File extra
Ask students to read pages 58 and 59 and decide which of the famous people they are most interested in. Ask them to research and write a fact file about this person. The file could include:
- a list of the person’s greatest achievements
- a quotation by him or her
- reasons why the student finds him/her interesting

Students who choose the same person compare their files.

Famous people
In pairs, students think of famous people from their country. They then make a list of the five they consider to be the most important. Explain that their list might include actors, historical leaders, singers or musicians, scientists or writers. Students compare their lists. Do they agree?

THE MUSIC AND THE MESSAGE (pages 60–61)

Topical research
Ask students to find out more about the health problems in some parts of Africa today. In groups, students find out more about one of these topics: AIDS, malaria or the lack of safe water. Ask them to research information about the problem itself, as well as possible solutions. Each group should decide how best to present their findings to the rest of the class.

Charity event poster
Ask students to set up a charity event to raise money. First, they should decide what charity their event will benefit. The class then decides what event to stage. Let students make suggestions in an open class discussion, e.g. a talent show, a cake sale. The class then chooses the most popular idea. Students design a poster to advertise the event and raise awareness of the cause.

CD FOLLOW-UP

Prediction
Stop the CD at key moments. Ask students what they think will happen next in Bob Marley’s life. In pairs, students make predictions. They listen to the next part of the recording to see if their predictions were correct.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 62–64)
1. a) A producer b) a gig c) A stage d) An album e) a studio f) a new version g) a competition
2. a) Jamaica b) Nine Miles c) Trench Town d) 56 Hope Road
3. a) F. Ciddy Malcolm was from a small village. b) F. Captain Marley was much older than Ciddy. c) T d) T e) T f) F. It is a very poor area. g) T
4. a) Neville Livingston b) Clement Dodd c) Desmond Dekker d) Peter Tosh
5. a) drugs b) support c) drum d) bass
6. The correct order is: c, g, d, e, a, b.
7. a) Kingston b) David / Ziggy c) Johnny Nash and Eric Clapton d) the people of Haiti e) Haile Selassie f) Miss World
8. Sentences a, c and e are true. 9. Open answers. 10. a) funeral b) cancer c) tear gas d) violence

Resource Sheet Activities
People and places
b) country c) three d) Trench Town e) Kingston

Chapters 1–2
1. b) He loved playing football and music. c) To look for work. d) They were young men who spent a lot of time on the streets. e) They worked together. Desmond Dekker was a welder too. f) It was popular and fast Jamaican dance music. g) He changed Bob’s last name from Marley to Martell. 2. b) iv c) ii d) i e) v

Chapters 3–4
1. b) local cemetery (not local cinema) c) sound (not look) d) sound equipment (not film equipment) e) a car factory (not a music studio) f) Jamaica (not Ethiopia) g) green (not blue) 2. Open answers.

Chapters 5–6
1. b) T c) F. He asked the band to tour the UK. d) T e) F. He sings about his early life in Trench Town. f) T 2. b) Cindy Breakspeare c) Chris Blackwell d) Peter Tosh e) Rita Marley 3. Open answers.

Chapters 7–8
1. The correct order is: c, g, a, e, b, f, d. 2. b) They hoped it would bring an end to the violence in Jamaica. c) The ruler of the country was a dictator. d) To drive back the crowds. e) He wanted to reach new fans in the US.

Chapter 9
1. b) T c) F. Just before he died, he flew to Miami. d) F. His body was taken to Nine Miles. e) T f) F. It has sold more copies than any other reggae album. 2. Open answers.

Vocabulary Builder
1. 2. competition 3. studio 4. producer 5. race 6. cemetery 7. pregnant 8. independence 2. 2. drums 3. at a gig 4. peace 5. support 6. a dictator 7. cancer 8. stage

Casual language
1. hit 2. over 3. drop