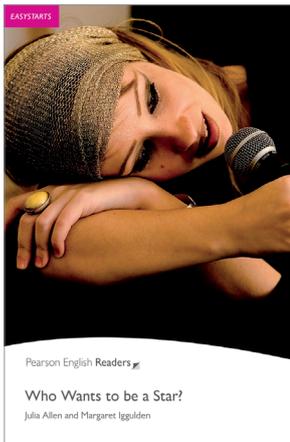


# Who Wants to be a Star?

Julia Allen and Margaret Iggulden



## Summary

Tina is a child pop star. Although she is very successful, she dislikes her lifestyle, and she dislikes the city too. Her pushy mother, however, is very keen for her to continue in her career.

When Tina's mother reprimands her for eating chocolates, mother and daughter argue and Tina is very upset. She decides to run away from home and visit her friend's grandmother, who lives in a country village called Stonechurch.

She travels by train, taking care to wear casual clothes so that nobody will recognise her. She is able to find the right house because she has a photo of it. When she knocks on the door, a kind old lady opens it. Tina explains that she is a friend of the old lady's granddaughter, and she is invited into the house.

The old lady, whose name is Mrs White, has no idea that Tina is famous. She realises Tina is unhappy and invites her to stay for a week, but tells her to phone her mother first. Tina pretends to have done so.

Tina enjoys the peace and freedom of the countryside, although she is shocked when a fox kills one of Mrs White's chickens.

Meanwhile the missing child star is big news, and after a few days, the postman recognises Tina from her photos in the newspaper. When Mrs White finds out the truth, she takes Tina home and persuades her mother to send Tina to a new school – the school is run by a friend of hers, and because it is on the island of Guernsey (one of the Channel Islands) Tina will not be very well known.

Tina goes to her new school and is very happy in her new, non-celebrity, lifestyle.

## Background and themes

**Telling the truth and lying:** Tina lies to Mrs White when she says she has phoned her mother. She also fails to tell the 'whole truth' about her situation.

**Rebellion:** Tina rebelled against her mother and actually ran away from home.

**Fame:** Tina hated her celebrity lifestyle although many teenagers dream of such fame.

**Town vs. country:** Tina preferred the country to the town, although she learned that country life can be cruel.

**Careers and ambition:** Tina was not allowed to work out her own ambitions – her mother had already planned her career.

## Discussion activities

### Pages 1–7

#### Before reading

- Discuss:** Ask the students to look at the cover. Read out the title and ask them to put their hands up if their answer is 'yes'. Invite those students to say why they would like to be famous; invite the others to say why they wouldn't. Allow a brief class discussion.
- Discuss:** In pairs, students note down the 'pros' and 'cons' of being a celebrity, using the ideas from Exercise 1 and their own ideas too. Then invite them to share their ideas and summarise them in note form on the board.
- Ask the students if they can think of any example of young celebrities who have been damaged by fame (e.g. Britney Spears).

#### After reading

- Role play:** Ask the students to role play a conversation (or an argument) between Tina and her mother, just before Tina leaves home. Refer them to the text on page 2 but encourage them to add their own ideas.

### Pages 8–15

#### Before reading

- Discuss any or all of the following questions:**
  - Do the students sympathise with Tina or her mother? (or neither of them, or both)?
  - Do they approve of Tina's actions?
  - Is it ever right to tell lies?
- Guess:** Ask the students to guess what will happen next. Put them into pairs and ask them to note down their ideas.

#### After reading

- Discuss:** Students look again at their notes from activity 6. How close were their ideas to the actual story?