Prologue

She was a celebrity and the most photographed woman in the world. She was the toast of Paris when she first came to the city to perform as a dancer at the Theatre des Champs Elysées. She quickly achieved international fame. During World War II, she was a spy for the French Resistance. And at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, she spoke at the March on Washington when Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous speech. At the age of 69, she decided to return to Paris for one more performance. Could she do It?
Vocabulary

Listen to and say these words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a ghetto</td>
<td>(GET O)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scarce</td>
<td>(SKAIRS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to drop out</td>
<td>(DRAHP OUT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talent</td>
<td>(TAL uhNT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>racism</td>
<td>(RAI SIZ uhM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a sensation</td>
<td>(SEN SAI SHuhN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stunning</td>
<td>(STUHN ING)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>integrated</td>
<td>(IN Tuh GRAIT uhD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to adopt</td>
<td>(uh DAHPT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>harmony</td>
<td>(HAHR MuhN EE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>funeral</td>
<td>(FYOO Ner uhL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>procession</td>
<td>(PRuh SE SHUN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gun</td>
<td>(GUHN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salute</td>
<td>(Suh LOOT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box. You may need to change the form of the words.

1. Too many teenagers _____ _____ of school.
2. The children were not her own; they were ________.
3. To live in ______ means to live peacefully, without fighting.
4. A ceremony for a dead person is a ________.
5. She was a _________ in her new city. They loved her performances.
6. A poor section of a city is often called a ________.
7. It was a _________ performance; everyone was amazed.
8. If something is ________, it is hard to find.
9. She had a lot of natural _______. She could sing and dance beautifully.
10. In an ________ society all races have equal rights.
11. ______ exists when one group of people think another group is not equal to them.
12. When a very important person arrives, _____ are fired twenty-one times as a ______.
13. The funeral ___________ was many blocks long.
The Story

Josephine Baker was born poor in the black ghetto of St. Louis, Missouri. Money was so scarce that at the age of eight she worked as a maid for a white woman. By twelve, she dropped out of school, and a few years later, she became a chorus girl in stage shows. Before long, her talent in singing and dancing and her stage presence were noticed. But racism in the early and mid-1900s made it difficult to find work in the U.S. Black entertainers were not welcomed except in black clubs.

She decided to go to Paris. There she became an overnight sensation. Parisians loved her. Her beauty was stunning; they couldn’t get enough. She was a success in the integrated society of Paris. She soon was one of the most photographed women in the world. During World War II, Josephine served as a spy for the French Resistance – people who were fighting the German occupation. For that, the French government awarded her the Legion of Honor for her efforts.

Josephine Baker was always interested in integration. She began adopting children, twelve in all, who were of different races. She wanted to show the world that they could live together in peace and harmony despite their differences. She also spoke at the March on Washington rally in 1963. She stood beside Martin Luther King, Jr. as he delivered his famous speech. It was a proud moment in her life.

She gave her last performance in Paris at age sixty-nine. Reviews were outstanding, but two days after her last concert, she died. Thousands came out to watch her funeral procession. The French government gave her a 21-gun salute in honor of the woman they loved and respected.
The Gapped Story

*Listen to or read the story and fill in the gaps.*

Josephine Baker was born poor in the black ______ of St. Louis, Missouri. Money was so ______ that at the age of eight she worked as a maid for a white woman. By twelve, she _______ ___ of school, and a few years later, she became a chorus girl in stage shows. Before long her _______ in singing and dancing and her stage presence were noticed. But _______ in the early and mid-1900s made it difficult to find work in the U.S. Black entertainers were not welcomed except in black clubs.

She decided to go to Paris. There she became an overnight __________. Parisians loved her. Her beauty was _________; they couldn’t get enough. She was a success in the _________ society of Paris. She soon was one of the most photographed women in the world. During World War II, Josephine served as a spy for the French Resistance – people who were fighting the German occupation. For that, the French government awarded her the Legion of Honor for her efforts.

Josephine Baker was always interested in integration. She began _________ children, twelve in all, who were of different races. She wanted to show the world that they could live together in peace and _______ despite their differences. She also spoke at the March on Washington rally in 1963. She stood beside Martin Luther King, Jr. as he delivered his famous speech. It was a proud moment in her life.

She gave her last performance in Paris at age sixty-nine. Reviews were outstanding, but two days after her last concert, she died. Thousands came out to watch her _______ _________. The French government gave her a 21-______ _______ in honor of the woman they loved and respected.
Tell The Story

*Use the words below to tell the story. Go down the columns.*

Josephine Baker
ghetto
St. Louis, Missouri
money
maid
dropped out
a chorus girl
her talent
racism
Paris
overnight sensation
stunning
during World War II
French Resistance
the Legion of Honor
adopting children
March on Washington rally
Martin Luther King, Jr.
last performance
sixty-nine
reviews
two days after
funeral procession
21-gun salute
Dictation

1. Where was Josephine Baker born?
2. What did people notice about Josephine?
3. Why was it difficult to find work?
4. Was she successful in Paris?
5. When did she become a spy for the Resistance?
6. What did she receive from the French government?
7. How many children did she adopt?
8. What did she do at the famous march on Washington?
9. What did she do at age 69?
10. Was her concert successful?
11. At the funeral how did the French government salute her?

Summing Up

Jill: Josephine had a lot going for her, didn’t she?
Jack: And when she had had enough of racism in the US, she took off for Paris.
Jill: And hit the ground running – an overnight sensation.
Jack: And she found time to be a mover and shaker in the Civil Rights Movement.

Write

Write about your “superstar”: who? did what? when? where? for how long?

FYI

www.cmgww.com/stars/baker/
www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/bake-jos.htm
womenshistory.about.com/od/bakerjosephine/p/josephine_baker.htm