


6 Inspiration

A man with short dark hair, wearing a black zip-up jacket over a red t-shirt and blue jeans, sits on a black stool in a cluttered art studio. He is smiling at the camera. The studio is filled with art supplies, including paint palettes, brushes, and various framed and unframed artworks. A desk in the background has a lamp and more art materials. On the floor in the foreground, several colorful paintings are laid out, including one with a sunburst and another with a green landscape. A book titled 'The Sneaky Book' is visible on the floor near the man's feet.

“ The doorbell rang and it was a trick-or-treater dressed as my character. It was so cool. ”

Jarrett Krosoczka
Author, TED speaker

UNIT GOALS

In this unit, you will ...

- talk about inspirational people.
- read about how someone became an author.
- watch a TED Talk about the events that inspired an author's career.

WARM UP

▶ **6.1** Watch part of Jarrett Krosoczka's TED Talk. Answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 What kind of books does Krosoczka write?
- 2 Why did Krosoczka think the trick-or-treater was “so cool”?



A boy and his father launch a model rocket.

6A Inspiring people

VOCABULARY Sources of inspiration

A ▶ **6.2** Complete the sentences with words from the box. Listen and check your answers.

changed	encouraged	gave
showed	supported	was

- 1 “When I met my best friend Maria, she completely _____ my life.”
- 2 “My biology teacher, Mrs. Chang, _____ me to become a scientist.”
- 3 “My first boss _____ a great role-model for me when I first started work.”
- 4 “My mother _____ me that it’s possible to stay positive even in difficult times.”
- 5 “I was lucky that my parents always _____ my career in music.”
- 6 “My grandfather always _____ me great advice when I was young.”

B Change two or three of the sentences in **A** to make them true for you.

C Work with a partner. Read your sentences to each other. Ask questions as you listen.

My older brother was a great role-model for me when I was a child.

Yeah? In what way?

LISTENING My inspiration

Hedging

It is common for English speakers to use certain words or phrases to indicate uncertainty. Common hedging words include:

probably possibly maybe perhaps

A ▶ **6.3** Franklin Chang Díaz is a former NASA astronaut. Who does he describe as his “number one hero”? Watch and circle the correct answer.

- a** his science teacher **b** a famous astronaut **c** his father

B ▶ **6.3** Watch again. Circle **T** for True or **F** for False.

- | | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| 1 As an astronaut, Chang Díaz went into space only once. | T | F |
| 2 Chang Díaz became interested in space when he was a child. | T | F |
| 3 Chang Díaz’s father was a scientist. | T | F |
| 4 Chang Díaz believes he is an inspiration for others. | T | F |

C CRITICAL THINKING

Inferring Chang Díaz says that “Inspiration is in many ways a bit of a chain.” What does he mean by this? Discuss with a partner.



Former NASA astronaut
Franklin Chang Díaz

SPEAKING Talking about an inspirational person

A ▶ **6.4** What was the music teacher’s advice?

A: When did you graduate from university?

B: About three years ago. I kind of miss being a student. A couple of / Just a few

A: I know what you mean. What did you study? did you major in / was your major

B: Business administration. What about you?

A: I majored in music.

B: Yeah? Why did you choose that?

A: I had a great music teacher at school.

She really inspired me. was really inspiring / was an inspiration

B: That’s cool.

A: Yeah. She always told me to follow my passion in life. advised me to / said that I should
It was really great advice.

B Practice the conversation with a partner. Practice again using the words on the right.

C Think of three inspiring people. Use these examples or think of others. Tell your partner why they inspire you.

a family member a teacher a leader an athlete a historical figure

Serena Williams is really inspiring. She’s an amazing athlete who never gives up and always wants to improve.

6B Inspiring words

LANGUAGE FOCUS *Discussing inspirational people*

A ▶ **6.5** Read the information. What else do you know about these people?

THE WORLD'S MOST INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

A recent survey identified 50 of the world's most inspiring people. Here are the top 3.



NELSON MANDELA

1918–2013
Former
President of
South Africa



MAHATMA GANDHI

1869–1948
Leader of
independence
movement in
India



STEVE JOBS

1955–2011
Cofounder,
chairman, and
CEO of Apple, Inc.

“ Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. ”

“ You must be the change you wish to see in the world. ”

“ Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower. ”

THESE PEOPLE ALSO MADE THE LIST: Leonardo da Vinci (Italy), Anne Frank (Germany), Frida Kahlo (Mexico), Bob Marley (Jamaica), Coco Chanel (France), Stephen Hawking (England), Martin Luther King Jr. (U.S.).

B ▶ **6.6** Listen to someone talking about two people he admires. Complete the chart.

Who does he admire?	Why does he admire them?
1	
2	

C ▶ **6.7** Watch and study the language in the chart.

Reporting what someone said

“I admire Frida Kahlo.”	He said He told me	(that) he admired Frida Kahlo.
“I don't know much about her.”	He said He told me	(that) he didn't know much about her.
“Follow your dreams.” “Don't be afraid.”	He told me to follow my dreams. He told me not to be afraid.	


For more information on **reported speech**, see Grammar Summary 6 on page 156.

D Circle the correct option to complete each sentence.

- 1 My teacher (**said / told**) me not to interrupt while other people are talking.
- 2 My father (**said / told**) that he had two jobs when he was a student.
- 3 Her older brother (**said / told**) her to take her piano lessons more seriously.
- 4 My coach (**said / told**) me that I was his most promising new player.
- 5 Our professor always (**said / told**) us that there was no success without failure.

E Rewrite the sentences as reported speech.

- 1 "Think carefully about your future." My dad told me _____.
- 2 "I want to lead our country someday." My sister said _____.
- 3 "Don't make the same mistake twice." The teacher told her _____.
- 4 "I don't want to stand in your way." My mother told me _____.
- 5 "I don't worry about the little things." My grandfather said _____.

F  **6.8** Find and correct the four mistakes in this paragraph. Listen and check your answers.

At 18 years of age, Frida Kahlo was involved in an accident that changed her life forever. Her school bus hit a streetcar, and she broke her back. She had to spend many months in bed. During this time, she discovered her love of painting. Kahlo painted many self-portraits. She once told that she painted herself because she was the subject she knew best. After her long recovery, she met painter Diego Rivera. He recognized her talent and said her to keep painting. A few years later, Rivera said that he want to marry her. She told him that she is happy to become his wife and accepted his marriage proposal. It would be the beginning of a long but difficult marriage.



Frida Kahlo

SPEAKING Getting advice

A Think of two people who gave you advice. Complete the chart with notes.

	Person	Advice
1		
2		

B Work in a group. Share your advice. Can others guess who gave you the advice (and if you took it)?

Someone told me to take up acting in high school.

Was it a teacher?

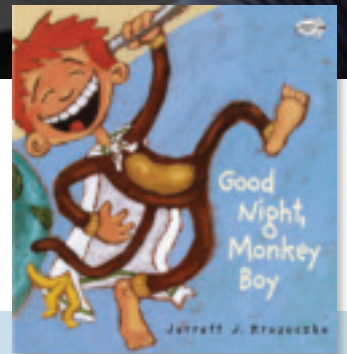


Jarrett Krosoczka offers to sign a book for a young fan.

6C Inspiring lives

PRE-READING Scanning

- A Work with a partner. Look at the book cover on the right. What do you think it's about?
- B Scan the text to check your idea. Do you think you'd enjoy reading the book?



▶ 6.9

1 On Jarrett Krosoczka's 14th birthday, his grandparents gave him a gift—a drawing table. During dinner that night, the fortune¹ in his fortune cookie said, “You will be successful in your work.” He taped it to the table.

2 Krosoczka came from a troubled family—his parents were never around, and he had few friends. His best friends at the time were the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and other characters he read about in books. When he was in the third grade, his grandparents adopted him. “They loved me so much,” he says, “and they supported my creative efforts.”

3 Even as a young boy, Krosoczka loved drawing and writing stories. He was lucky in that he found **encouragement** both at home and at school. One teacher in particular stood out for him: his first-grade teacher, Mrs. Alisch. “I can just remember the love that she offered us as her students,” he recalls.

4 When he was 17, he volunteered at a camp for sick children called Hole in the Wall. There he met Eric, a kid with leukemia. Eric sadly didn't live

to see his sixth birthday. It was an inspirational experience that Krosoczka said changed his life—it was the pivotal² moment that made him want to write picture books for children.

5 After graduating from art school, Krosoczka struggled to publish his work, but he never **gave up**. He eventually published his first book, *Good Night, Monkey Boy*—a story about a young, energetic boy who never wants to go to bed. His local newspaper **celebrated** the news, and he signed copies of the book at a local bookstore. Many of the people who inspired him were present at the event, including his friends, grandparents, and even several of his teachers. Mrs. Alisch, his first-grade teacher, cut in front of the line and proudly said, “I taught him how to read.” It was a very special moment for Krosoczka.

6 Krosoczka is now a successful artist. His readers clearly love his books, and he receives **fan mail** from kids all over the world. Interestingly, he still draws on that same table he got on his 14th birthday, and the fortune is still taped to it.

¹ fortune: *n.* a prediction about your future

² pivotal: *adj.* of vital or critical importance to something

UNDERSTANDING MAIN IDEAS

Choose the best subhead for each paragraph.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Paragraph 3 | a Early love of art | b A make-believe world |
| 2 Paragraph 4 | a Celebrating success | b A writer is born |
| 3 Paragraph 5 | a Success at last | b Funny fan mail |

UNDERSTANDING SEQUENCE

Number the events from 1 to 5 in the order they happened.

- _____ Krosoczka published his first book.
- _____ Krosoczka began to volunteer with sick children.
- _____ Krosoczka graduated from art school.
- _____ Krosoczka's first-grade teacher attended his book signing.
- _____ Krosoczka got a fortune cookie that said he would be successful.

UNDERSTANDING DETAILS

Match the two parts of the sentences.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | adopted him. |
| 2 Krosoczka's grandparents | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | taught him to read. |
| 3 Krosoczka's parents | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | sent him fan mail. |
| 4 Eric | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | inspired him to write children's books. |
| 5 Mrs. Alisch | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | were never around. |
| 6 Kids around the world | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | were his best friends. |

BUILDING VOCABULARY

A Circle the correct option to complete each sentence.

- 1 You give **encouragement** when you want someone to _____.
- a keep trying b stop what they're doing
- 2 If you **gave up** during a competition, you _____.
- a quit b won
- 3 Students are likely to **celebrate** when they _____ an exam.
- a pass b fail
- 4 You might send **fan mail** to _____.
- a a family member b a famous person you like

B CRITICAL THINKING

Evaluating What do you think are the best things about being a children's author? What are the challenges? Discuss with a partner.

6D

How a boy became an artist



TED TALKS

JARRETT KROSOCZKA is an author and **illustrator**. In his TED Talk he describes a **compliment** he received that made a **colossal** difference in his life. His idea worth spreading is that inspiration often comes to us in unexpected ways and that we can use our own talents to inspire others.

PREVIEWING

Read the paragraph above. Circle the correct option for each sentence below. You will hear these words in the TED Talk.

- 1 The **illustrator** of a book is the person who (**writes it** / **draws the pictures**).
- 2 If you give a **compliment**, you say something (**nice** / **bad**) about someone.
- 3 A **colossal** failure is a (**very big** / **really small**) failure.

VIEWING

A ▶ **6.10** Watch Part 1 of the TED Talk. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 Who was Jack Gantos?

a an author	b a teacher
-------------	-------------
- 2 How did Gantos inspire Krosoczka?

a He complimented Krosoczka on his drawing.	b He helped Krosoczka write a story.
---	--------------------------------------
- 3 What did Krosoczka start to do after school?

a write letters to famous authors	b write his own stories
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B ▶ **6.11** Watch Part 2 of the TED Talk. Check [✓] each box to show if the statement refers to Mr. Greenwood or Mr. Lynch. Some statements refer to both.

	Mr. Greenwood	Mr. Lynch
a complimented him on his drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b said he should be the school cartoonist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c asked him to stop drawing in class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d told him to forget everything he learned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C ▶ **6.12** Watch Part 3 of the TED Talk. Work with a partner. Explain why each thing below is important to Krosoczka.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| a an email that said, "Nice work!" | b the date June 12, 2001 | c a Monkey Boy birthday cake |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|

D CRITICAL THINKING

Inferring Why do you think Krosoczka has a framed photo of the Monkey Boy cake on his desk?

**VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT**

▶ **6.13** Watch the excerpts from the TED Talk. Choose the correct meaning of the words.

PRESENTATION SKILLS Using your voice effectively

You can make your presentation clearer and more memorable by using your voice effectively. You can raise or lower your voice, stress words, vary your speed, pause, or even change your voice to indicate you're quoting another person.

A ▶ **6.14** Watch part of Jarrett Krosoczka's TED Talk. Notice how he speaks very softly when he's telling the story of the visiting author. Why do you think he does this?

B ▶ **6.15** Now watch two other TED speakers. What does each person do with his voice? Choose the correct answers.

1 A. J. Jacobs

- a** He speeds up and stresses key words. **b** He slows down and speaks very softly.

2 Roman Mars

- a** He makes his voice much higher. **b** He slows down and pauses between words.

C Work with a partner. Read the text below in different ways. How does the meaning change?

emphasizing key words pausing at key moments using your grandmother's voice

My grandmother was an inspiration to me. One day I was upset with a grade I got at school, and she said, "Just do your best. No one should expect more than that." I looked at her for a moment but didn't say a word. And deep in my heart, I knew she was right.

6E

A world of inspiration

COMMUNICATE *A lively dinner party*

A Work alone. Write a list of people that you find inspirational. Think about people from the following categories.

political figures
writers

athletes
artists

musicians
adventurers

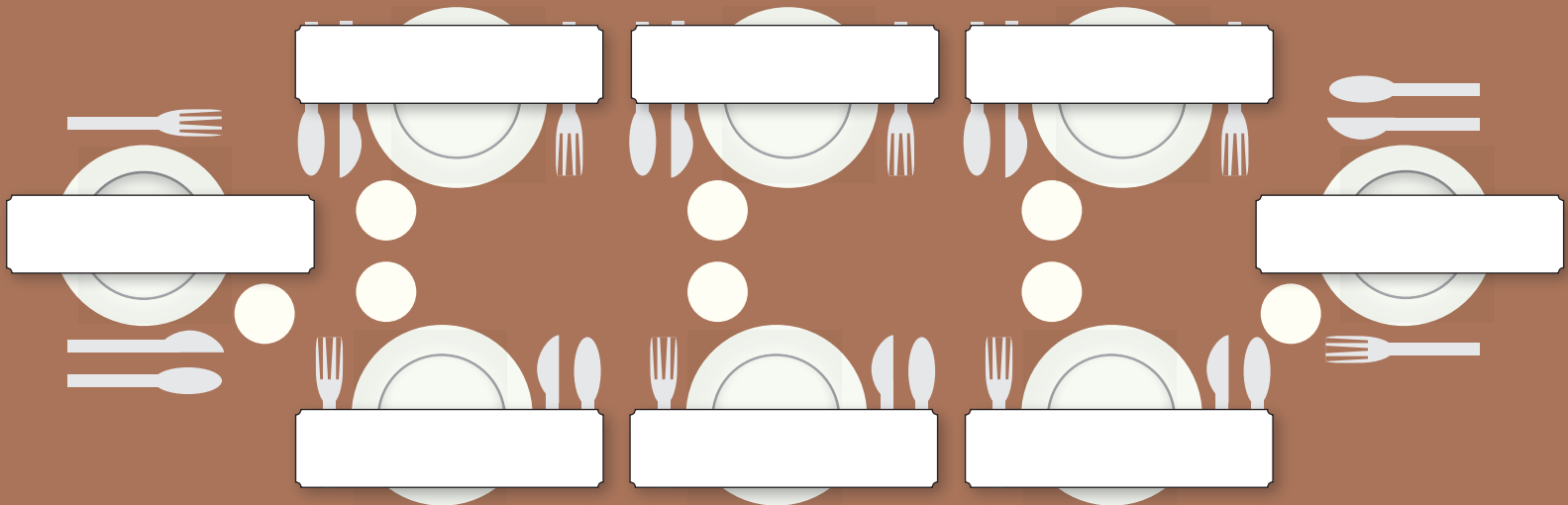
entertainers
scientists

B Work with a partner. Imagine you are having a small dinner party for eight people (including you and your partner). You can invite anybody you like from your lists of inspirational people. Decide on six people to invite. Give reasons for your answers.

Asking about what someone knows

Do you know ...? Have you heard of ...? Are you familiar with ...?

C Now decide on the seating plan. You want an interesting party with a lively discussion of ideas. Decide who should and shouldn't sit where.



D Work with another pair. Describe your dinner party and give reasons for your seating plan.

WRITING *An inspiring person*

Who do you think is inspirational? Write about them. It could be a famous person or someone you know personally. What makes the person so inspirational to you?

My older sister Rebecca has always been a great role-model for me. She's always been very ambitious and has worked so hard to get where she is today. She's shown me that anything is possible as long as you try your best.