

# Worksheet: Fame After 40

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## Comprehension Questions

*True or false according to the article?*

1. Stan Lee's hit was the first comic book he'd written
2. Lee's superheroes were portrayed as imperfect
3. Lee is still active in the film industry
4. Henry Ford came from a family of engineers
5. The car's success was largely thanks to Ford's marketing efforts
6. Darwin was so stressed about his book that he got sick
7. "On the Origin of Species" was released after his death
8. Julia Child had trained as a cook since she was young
9. She later became a TV star
10. Harland David Sanders had a number of successful businesses
11. He continues to run the company today
12. Grandma Moses came from a wealthy family
13. She mainly painted portraits

## Discover New Words

Choose the best definition for the vocabulary word in **bold**.

1. Some people **moan about** their 40<sup>th</sup> birthdays as if their best years were behind them.
  - a. complain about
  - b. look forward to
  - c. think too much about
  
2. Ford came from a family of farmers, but he **despised** farm work and became an engineer instead.
  - a. didn't understand
  - b. failed to learn
  - c. hated very strongly
  
3. However, she wasn't always a culinary virtuoso – her early career was spent in advertising, and she also did a **stint** in the military as a research assistant.
  - a. active combat position
  - b. required time
  - c. short period of service
  
4. Sanders eventually opened a restaurant serving chicken and other meals, but tourism **dried up** during World War II and the place had to close.
  - a. decreased and disappeared
  - b. had a lot of risks
  - c. was prohibited
  
5. When she developed **arthritis**, her sister suggested that painting might be easier on her joints. This **spurred** the beginning of her painting career in her late 70s.
  - a. celebrated
  - b. delayed
  - c. encouraged

## Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Three are not used.

|                  |                         |                        |                          |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>brawl</b>     | <b>did a stint</b>      | <b>moaning about</b>   | <b>renowned</b>          |
| <b>caught on</b> | <b>have a knack for</b> | <b>myriad</b>          | <b>right off the bat</b> |
| <b>despair</b>   | <b>in earnest</b>       | <b>nothing to lose</b> | <b>rural</b>             |
| <b>despise</b>   | <b>light-hearted</b>    | <b>on the cusp of</b>  |                          |

1. Why don't you do something constructive instead of just \_\_\_\_\_ how bad things are?
2. If the plane's pretty empty, why not ask for an upgrade to first class? We've got \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The war has dragged on for so long with no end in sight, and the population is in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Now that you've graduated from high school, you're \_\_\_\_\_ a real adventure in self-discovery.
5. Randy got his nose broken during a \_\_\_\_\_ at the local bar.
6. She's a very successful investor; she seems to \_\_\_\_\_ identifying good potential opportunities.
7. The band has recorded a number of decent songs, but their music still hasn't really \_\_\_\_\_.
8. He's a \_\_\_\_\_ human rights activist who has worked on a number of high-profile cases.
9. They have electricity in the \_\_\_\_\_ areas, but cell phone coverage is spotty.
10. My dad's a gymnastics instructor, and he actually \_\_\_\_\_ in the circus when he was younger.
11. When I started my new job, I was given a very important project \_\_\_\_\_.
12. We've been talking about buying a house for a long time, but now we're starting the search \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Answers**

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. False
9. True
10. False
11. False
12. False
13. False

### **Discover New Words**

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. a
5. c

## Vocabulary Quiz

1. moaning about
2. nothing to lose
3. despair
4. on the cusp of
5. brawl
6. have a knack for
7. caught on
8. renowned
9. rural
10. did a stint
11. right off the bat
12. in earnest