

# Shirley Temple

Did you know that in the 1930s the most popular movie star in Hollywood was seven years old? Shirley Temple was a beautiful little girl. Her curly golden hair, bright eyes, and dimples were famous. She was a good actor, dancer, and singer.

Most importantly, however, she was able to show characters who were cheerful and brave. At that time, many families were out of work.. Nobody felt very certain about the future. But when Shirley Temple came on the movie screen, her positive attitude made people forget to worry, at least for a little while.



From 1932 to 1942, Shirley Temple made over 40 films. Some of the most popular were *Little Miss Marker*, *Curly Top*, *Heidi*, *Bright Eyes*, and *The Little Princess*. In 1934 Temple was given an Oscar for her special contributions to the world of film. Because she was still a small child, she was given a child-size version of the regular Academy Award.

By 1942 Temple was thirteen-years-old and no longer so small. She was changing, becoming a teenager. The country was changing, too. Because the United States was engaged in World War II, there were suddenly many jobs that needed to be done. More and more people were working, doing the jobs that had previously been done by people now away fighting as soldiers. People no longer had time to watch the golden curls and dimples of Shirley Temple.

Temple continued to act regularly in films until 1949, but none of these films were as popular as her earlier ones. At the age of twenty-one, she retired from acting. Soon after that she married a man named Charles Black. He was one of the few people she had ever met who had never seen any of her movies.

Although she occasionally returned to the world of show business, Shirley Temple, now Shirley Temple Black, concentrated on making her mark in politics. She was a delegate to the United Nations, where she was very involved in helping people from other nations.

Throughout her life, she has been very lucky. She has enjoyed wonderful adventures, fame, and riches, but she has given back to the world, too. First she cheered up a nation as a child; then she helped people and international relations as an adult.

## Shirley Temple (cont.)

### Reading Comprehension Questions

After reading the story, answer the questions. Circle the correct answer.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
  - a. Shirley Temple was one of the greatest child actors the world has seen.
  - b. Shirley Temple has spent much of her life helping many people.
  - c. In the 1930s, Shirley Temple was Hollywood's most popular actress.
  - d. Child actors have always been successful at cheering up the nation.
2. Which of these is not a Shirley Temple film?
  - a. *Dimples*
  - b. *The Little Princess*
  - c. *Bright Eyes*
  - d. *Curly Top*
3. According to the passage, how did Shirley Temple "cheer up" the nation?
  - a. She married a handsome man named Charles Black.
  - b. She won a child-sized Academy Award in 1934.
  - c. She helped people from other nations as a delegate.
  - d. She was a talented actress with a positive attitude.
4. What did Shirley Temple do after she retired from acting?
  - a. She continued making films, none of which were very popular.
  - b. She made her mark in show business and earned an Oscar.
  - c. She was a delegate who improved international relations.
  - d. She helped cheer up families who were out of work.
5. By 1942 people no longer had time to watch Shirley Temple because
  - a. she had made too many movies.
  - b. the country was changing and there were jobs to be done.
  - c. she no longer had a positive attitude.
  - d. she was about to retire.