

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF DEBBIE ALLEN/A DIFFERENT WORLD

AGES 9 - 12

BOTWC minis posing
as Debbie Allen & the cast
of "A Different World"



A SUPERSTAR MAKING THE INDUSTRY...

BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN

Instructions: Read the following text about Debbie Allen and her achievements, and then answer the questions on the following page.



Debbie Allen is a **superstar**. From acting and dance to directing movies and writing books, she has shown you can have many many talents and be **successful** using all of them.

Allen was born on January 16th in Houston, Texas. She isn't the only **celebrity** in her family - She also has a sister, Phylicia Rashad, who is a **famous** actress best known for her role as Clair Huxtable in *The Cosby Show*.

She first became well known for her role in the movie *Fame* and then as a dance teacher on the TV show *Fame*. She even **choreographed** the dances on the show, which means she created the **routines** for the actors.

Fame was not the only very popular show that Allen was a part of. She was also a producer and director on *Grey's Anatomy* and *A Different World*.

A Different World was a very **popular** show that was about a group of college students at a fictional **HBCU** which was called Hillman College. Allen was really able to improve the show because her own experiences at her own HBCU, Howard University. It was a show that changed television and helped show a different **Black experience**. They talked about important topics in the community and told a story in a new way!

Debbie Allen has impacted TV in many ways - but her impact doesn't stop there. Just this year she opened a dance studio. Debbie Allen shows us all that we can shine all of our lights!



...A DIFFERENT WORLD

1) What is the focus of the first paragraph in the text?



2) What is the focus of the third paragraph in the text?



3) What is the focus on the fifth paragraph in the text?

YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR & STAR OF YOUR SHOW

Debbie Allen was a great director. To be a great director you first have to be a great story teller. Many people use storyboards as a way to help plan their stories before they shoot a film or movie. A storyboard almost looks like a comic book but shows the characters, settings, and the order of your story and scenes. It is like a preview before you shoot. Look at the example of the storyboard below and then create your own!



story board



DESCRIPTION:
TWO BEST FRIENDS START THEIR FIRST DAY OF COLLEGE.



DESCRIPTION:
THEY VISIT THEIR DORM ROOM.



DESCRIPTION:
THEY DECIDE TO EXPLORE MORE OF THE SCHOOL.



DESCRIPTION:
THEY REALIZE THAT THEIR DREAM IS ACTUALLY REAL.



DESCRIPTION:
THEY GO LOOK AT MORE OF THE CAMPUS TO DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT TO DO FIRST.



DESCRIPTION:
THE BEST FRIENDS DECIDE THEY WILL TRY OUT FOR CHEER.

TIME TO STORYBOARD

Instructions: Now make your own storyboard!



GLOSSARY

Superstar - an extremely famous and successful performer, athlete, etc.

Successful - having gotten or achieved wealth, respect, or fame

Celebrity - a person who is famous

Famous - known or recognized by very many people

Choreograph - to decide how a dancer or group of dancers will move during a performance

Routine - a series of things (such as movements or jokes) that are repeated as part of a performance

Popular - liked or enjoyed by many people

HBCU - Historically Black College or University

Experience - to do or see (something) or have (something) happen to you



