

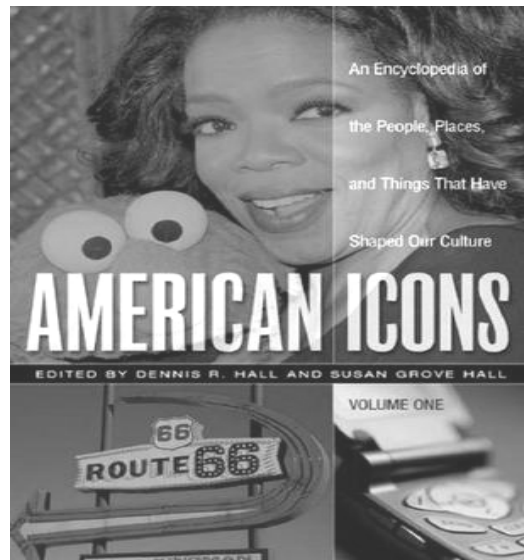
Part I **Pre-reading Questions**

1. Are you familiar with the figures in the pictures above?
2. What are they famous for?
3. Can you list some other famous figures in the history of the USA?
4. How do you like the American culture?

Part II Extensive Reading

Text A

Top 10 American Icons



If you dust off your old reference books and look up the word “**icon**”, you’ll discover that accurate **synonyms** include “symbol” and “representation”. A national icon is someone who, by the mere mention of their name, will remind people of their country. Whether they like it or not, they are representatives of their nation to the rest of the world.

Top 10: Ronald Reagan

Best known for his role as the 40th President of the United States, Reagan started out as a radio announcer and Hollywood actor, having made over 50 films. He realized politics was his calling and in 1947 became President of the **Screen Actors Guild**.

icon *n.* 图标；偶像；肖像，画像；圣像

synonym *n.* 同义词；同义字

He changed his party **affiliation** from Democrat to Republican and was elected Governor of California in 1966. After taking over the White House in 1981, he served in this **capacity** for two terms. During those years, he showed the world what America is all about.

Best quote: "America is too great to dream small dreams."

Top 9: Ernest Hemingway

Hemingway is considered the greatest American fiction writer of the 20th century. He was an **ambulance** driver during World War I and a war **correspondent** during World War II. He wrote about his experiences as an American **expatriate** in Paris during the 1920s, hunting in Africa, and fishing off Cuba.

His direct and **sparse** way of writing became his trademark, which has often been imitated and **parodied**. His works have earned him both the Pulitzer and the Nobel Prize. He supposedly committed suicide while struggling with **a bout of** depression, but he still remains one of the most prominent literary **ambassadors** America has ever had.

Best quote: "All things truly **wicked** start from an innocence."

Top 8: Frank Sinatra

The single most popular **crooner** of all time, Frank Sinatra had early ambitions of becoming a journalist. By the time he was working as a sports reporter, a second career in singing was taking off. Before long, he was touring with a big band **orchestra** and **embarking** on a solo career in 1942.

He was a **bona fide** sensation, selling records faster than they could be printed. Regarded as the greatest entertainer of the 20th century, Sinatra deserves his **status** as an American icon.

Best quote: "A friend is never an **imposition**."

Top 7: James Dean

James Dean was a kid from the Midwest. He studied acting and law in California but quit after getting a taste of the

affiliation *n.* 友好关系；加入；联盟；从属关系

capacity *n.* 能力；容量；资格，地位；生产力

ambulance *n.* 救护车；战时流动医院

correspondent *n.* 通讯记者；客户；通信者；代理商行

expatriate *vt.* 使移居国外；流放，放逐；使放弃国籍 *vi.* 移居国外；放弃原国籍 *n.* 被流放者；移居国外者 *adj.* 移居国外的；被流放的

sparse *adj.* 稀疏的；稀少的

parody *n.* 拙劣的模仿；诙谐的改编诗文 *vt.* 拙劣模仿

a bout of 一场

ambassador *n.* 大使；代表；使节

wicked *adj.* 邪恶的；恶劣的；不道德的；顽皮的

crooner *n.* 低声唱歌的人或歌手

orchestra *n.* 管弦乐；乐队演奏处

embark *vi.* 从事，着手；上船或

East of Eden 《伊甸园之东》
(1955)

Rebel without a Cause 《无因的反叛》 (1955)

Giant 《巨人传》 (1956)

Showcase *n.* 陈列橱, [家具]陈列柜; 显示优点的东西 *vt.* 使展现; 在玻璃橱窗陈列

draft *vt.* 选秀

savvy *n.* 悟性; 理解能力; 懂行 (的人) *vt.* 理解; 懂 *vi.* 理解; 知道

real thing on a TV show. He then moved to act on Broadway and got more guest appearances on television. His soft, unforced acting impressed both audience and producers.

He made three movies before his 1955 death in a car crash. *East of Eden*, *Rebel without a Cause* and *Giant* were not only critical and financial successes, but they **showcased** a new kind of actor that people had never seen before. Dean became more than an idol; he became a legend.

Best quote: "Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today."

Top 6: Michael Jordan

Here's a man who lives the American Dream. Originally from Brooklyn, Michael Jordan attended the University of North Carolina and proved that he truly was the best basketball player that ever lived by taking his team to the NCAA championship. He was soon **drafted** into the NBA as a guard for the Chicago Bulls. He led his team to six league championships and won the MVP award five times.

Also a **savvy** businessman, Air Jordan's fortune was estimated at \$408 million in 2003.

Best quote: "I can accept failure, but I can't accept not trying."

Top 5: Martin Luther King, Jr.

He had a dream. When he heard about a **pacifist** in India named Mahatma Gandhi, and became **enamored** with Gandhi's methods of peaceful protest.

Openly supporting Rosa Parks and her refusal to **relinquish** her seat to a white bus passenger made him a target for his opponents and his house was bombed. But that just served to **fuel his desire** to see **segregation terminated**. He became a national advocate for civil liberties and inspired a nation to change its ways. His **assassination** in 1968 only proved that he was on the right track.

Best quote: "If a man hasn't found something he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

Top 4: John Wayne

The "Duke" was forced to leave college after an injury

put an end to his football playing days. He had been working **odd jobs** at Fox Studios when he was finally noticed by executives. After a lead role in a major production failed to make him a star, he began to appear in **low-budget** films.

The movie that put him on the map was 1939's *Stagecoach*, directed by John Ford, with whom Wayne would have a long professional relationship. The Duke became famous for playing tough guys in westerns and war pictures. He is the personification of the American of those days, a private and honest man of action.

Best quote: "I never trust a man that doesn't drink."

Top 3: Elvis Presley

Since his death, he's been spotted at grocery stores, gas stations and diners; **irrefutable** evidence that his fans will love him eternally and still can't seem to accept his passing. He grew up in a poor home and taught himself how to play the guitar.

Later he recorded a song for his mother, which attracted the attention of a **small-time** producer. Elvis then recorded a couple of **rockabilly** singles, which became local hits. He finally shocked the nation in 1956 as a performer on The Ed Sullivan Show. The nation had never heard, or seen, anything like it before. He will always be known as the King of Rock 'n' roll.

Best quote: "I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to."

Top 2: Marilyn Monroe

Marilyn Monroe proved that where there's a will, there's a way. She overcame a childhood of **abuse**, worked as a swimsuit model, and eventually became one of the most famous movie stars of all time.

Her performances in films like *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* confirmed she had as much talent as she did beauty. She even allegedly had affairs with President Kennedy and his **Attorney General**, Bobby Kennedy. Her tragic death on August 5, 1962 was ruled a suicide by overmedication, which only intensified her **perpetual allure** and legendary status.

odd jobs 零工；零活儿

low-budget 低成本

Stagecoach 《关山飞渡》(1939)

irrefutable *adj.* 不能驳倒的；不能回答的

small-time *adj.* 三流的；小规模
的；无关轻重的

rockabilly *n.* [美]山区乡村摇滚
乐（起源于美国东南部）

abuse *n.* 滥用；虐待；辱骂；弊端；恶习，陋习 *vt.* 滥用；虐待；

Best quote: “Sex is a part of nature. I go along with nature.”

Top 1: John Fitzgerald Kennedy

The Kennedy clan is often considered the only Royal family the United States has ever had. What makes it so is not their wealth or political role, but rather the **aura** of nobility surrounding them. JFK was the **embodiment** of this. A Navy officer during World War II, he became a senator in 1952. Nine years later, he became the 35th American president.

His term in office was often **dubbed** the New Frontier since it was an era of change. He put an end to segregation, established **the Peace Corps**, and **masterminded** the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Unfortunately, he is often best remembered for his assassination in 1963. For all his youthful energy and **magnetism**, he represented the **quintessence** of America.

Best quote: “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

Abridged from AskMen
(1,213 words)

aura *n.* 光环 ;气氛 (中风等的)

预兆 ; 气味

embodiment *n.* 体现 ;化身 ;具

体化

dub *vt.* 配音 ;轻点 ;打击 ;授

予称号 *n.* 笨蛋 ; 鼓声

the Peace Corps (美国) 和平队

mastermind *vt.* 策划 *n.* 优秀策划

者 ; 才子

Exercises

I. Understand the text.

1. Why is Wayne remembered by people all over the world?
2. Why is John Fitzgerald Kennedy considered as the only royal family the United States has had?
3. What achievements are made by Michael Jordan?
4. Who is the “icon” of Martin Luther King Jr.?
5. How do you like Marilyn Monroe’s best quote?

II. Choose the best answer.

1. What is NOT mentioned in the Passage as an American Icon?
A. Ernest Hemingway

- B. James Dean
 - C. Michael Jackson
 - D. Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. Which of the following statements about Ernest Hemingway is NOT true?
- A. He realized his competence as a politician during World War II.
 - B. He once lived in France and hunted in Africa.
 - C. He was famous for his direct and sparse way of writing fiction.
 - D. He was both the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winner because of his writing style.
3. Who died in a car accident in 1955?
- A. Abram Lincoln.
 - B. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - C. Marilyn Monroe.
 - D. James Dean.
4. According to the passage, what made Michael Jordan an American icon?
- A. His higher education at the University of North Carolina.
 - B. His position as one of the most distinguished black superstar in the history of the USA.
 - C. His role in taking his basketball team to the NACC championship.
 - D. His leading the Chicago Bulls to six league championships and winning all the MVP awards.
5. What was John Wayne well known for?
- A. The most popular singer of the 20th century.
 - B. The most prominent American culture ambassador.
 - C. The king of Rock' n' Roll.
 - D. The tough-guy image in war films.
6. Which of the following events did NOT happen in the 1960s?
- A. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.
 - B. Presley became popular throughout America.
 - C. Reagan was elected Governor of California.
 - D. Kennedy was assassinated.
7. John Fitzgerald Kennedy experienced all the following events EXCEPT_____.
- A. the establishment of the Peace Corps
 - B. service in American Navy during World War II
 - C. two terms in the US presidency
 - D. the Cuban Missile Crisis
8. Which word is the synonym of icon in the passage?
- A. figure
 - B. photo
 - C. embodiment

D. image

III. Choose the best answer according to its correct meaning.

dust off	尝 (体验) 到.....滋味
commit suicide	激发.....的愿望
a bout of	使.....家喻户晓
take off	自杀
embark on	从事 , 着手
a taste of	重新使用
be enamored with	迷恋 ; 醉心于
fuel one' s desire	大受欢迎
put ... on the map	一场

IV. Choose the right word to fill in the blanks in proper form.

embody	advocate	relinquish	parody	confirm
expatriate	impose	capacity	abuse	showcase

1. As your father, I can set you free, but in my _____ as a king of the country I must do my duty and punish you.
2. She was _____ for some political reasons.
3. The trial was a _____ of justice.
4. You are always _____ on their generosity.
5. Other recent first ladies also _____ American clothing.
6. The small dog _____ his bone to the big dog.
7. Our premier _____ higher salaries for teachers.
8. We _____ land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us.
9. The recent airplane crash _____ my belief that stronger safety regulations are needed.

10. Words _____ thoughts and feelings.

V. Translate the sentences.

1. During those years, he showed the world what America is all about.

2. Her performances in films like *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* confirmed that she had as much talent as she did beauty.

3. His direct and sparse way of writing became his trademark, which has often been imitated and parodied.

4. If a man hasn't found something he will die for, he isn't fit to live.

5. All things truly wicked start from an innocence.

VI. Retell the text.

The text tells ten icons in America. A national icon is someone who, by the mere mention of their name, will remind people of their country.

1. _____ showed the world what America is all about.

2. Hemingway is considered the greatest American _____ of the 20th century.

3. Regarded as the greatest _____ of the 20th century, Sinatra deserves his status as an American icon.

4. Dean became more than an idol; he became a _____.

5. Michael Jordan led his team to six _____ and won the MVP award five times.

6. The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 only proved that he was _____.

7. John Wayne is the _____ of the American of those days, a private and honest man of action.

8. Elvis Presley will always be known as _____.

9. Marilyn Monroe had as much _____ as she did beauty.

10. For all his youthful energy and magnetism, John Fitzgerald Kennedy represented the _____ of America.

