

Greta Thunberg is TIME's Person of the Year

15th December, 2019



Climate activist Greta Thunberg has been named TIME magazine's Person of the Year for 2019. The 16-year-old from Sweden beat New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and the Hong Kong democracy protestors to win the

award. Ms Thunberg shot to fame in 2018 for raising people's awareness of the threat to the planet from climate change. She started a global movement when she decided to go on a climate strike outside the Swedish parliament in August 2018. Schoolchildren around the world then followed her example. She has since addressed the United Nations in New York and has met the Pope. After hearing about the award, she tweeted: "Wow, this is unbelievable! I will share this great honour."

Greta Thunberg is the youngest person ever to receive the award. TIME magazine wrote about why it gave the prize to Ms Thunberg. It said she has, "succeeded in creating a global attitudinal shift" in getting millions of people to join a "worldwide movement calling for urgent change". It added: "Greta has offered a moral call to those who are willing to act, and put shame on those who are not." Not everyone is happy with Ms Thunberg receiving the award. Donald Trump Jr said TIME was using a teenager "as a marketing gimmick". In contrast, Hillary Clinton tweeted: "I am grateful for all she's done to raise awareness of the climate crisis, and her willingness to tell hard, motivating truths."

Sources: yahoo.com / nbcnews.com / aol.com

Writing

Greta Thunberg deserves the TIME magazine award. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

climate / activist / time / democracy / protestor / threat / strike / example / wow / award / global / millions / change / teenager / gimmick / awareness / crisis / truth

True / False

- a) Greta Thunberg beat New Zealand's Prime Minister to get the prize. T / F
- b) Greta Thunberg became famous in 2017. T / F
- c) Greta Thunberg became famous after going on strike outside her school. T / F
- d) The Pope has met Greta Thunberg. T / F
- e) Greta is the second youngest person to receive the TIME award. T / F
- f) TIME said Ms Thunberg changed millions of people's minds. T / F
- g) Donald Trump's son said giving Greta the prize was a gimmick. T / F
- h) Greta Thunberg said she is grateful to Hillary Clinton. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. activist | a. get |
| 2. beat | b. campaign |
| 3. shot | c. inspiring |
| 4. movement | d. serious |
| 5. unbelievable | e. defeated |
| 6. receive | f. publicity stunt |
| 7. shift | g. incredible |
| 8. urgent | h. campaigner |
| 9. gimmick | i. change |
| 10. motivating | j. raise |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Greta Thunberg?
- b) What do you think of Greta Thunberg?
- c) How did Greta become so famous?
- d) Should Greta have won this award?
- e) What do you know about climate change?
- f) How worried are you about climate change?
- g) Should schoolchildren strike to support the environment?
- h) What advice do you have for Greta Thunberg?

Phrase Match

1. Thunberg shot to
 2. raising people's awareness
 3. she decided to go on a climate
 4. She has since addressed
 5. I will share this great
 6. the youngest person ever
 7. a worldwide movement calling
 8. a marketing
 9. I am grateful for all
 10. her willingness to tell hard, motivating
- a. strike
 - b. she's done
 - c. to receive the award
 - d. of the threat
 - e. gimmick
 - f. the United Nations
 - g. fame in 2018
 - h. truths
 - i. honour
 - j. for urgent change

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about other winners of the TIME magazine award?
- c) What effect has Greta Thunberg had on the world?
- d) Should Greta Thunberg get the Nobel Peace Prize?
- e) What urgent change is needed on climate change?
- f) Why do men like Donald Trump and his son dislike Greta Thunberg?
- g) What do you think of Greta's speeches?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Greta Thunberg?

Spelling

1. Climate ciaivtst Greta Thunberg
2. the Hong Kong mdrcoaecy protestors
3. raising people's aerwnases
4. the hretat to the planet from climate change
5. outside the Swedish rlaipmanet
6. Wow, this is veeliunablbe
7. receive the waard
8. she has useeddcec
9. calling for uetnrg change
10. those who are wglinli to act
11. a marketing miicgmk
12. the climate iriscs

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. i	8. d	9. f	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Greta Thunberg

You think Greta Thunberg is the person of the year. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these people (and why): Donald Trump, Simone Biles or Stormzy.

Role B – Donald Trump

You think Donald Trump is the person of the year. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these people (and why): Greta Thunberg, Simone Biles or Stormzy.

Role C – Simone Biles

You think Simone Biles is the person of the year. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these people (and why): Donald Trump, Greta Thunberg or Stormzy.

Role D – Stormzy

You think Stormzy is the person of the year. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these people (and why): Donald Trump, Simone Biles or Greta Thunberg.

Speaking – Person of 2019

Rank these with your partner. Put the best person of the year at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Greta Thunberg
- Megan Rapinoe
- Mark Zuckerberg
- Donald Trump
- Simone Biles
- Elon Musk
- Stormzy
- Nancy Pelosi

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.