

Yusuf Islam

He was Cat Stevens.

When he was 18 he was a 'pop' icon and was living the typical lifestyle of such a person (partying, drinking etc.)

Have a look and read through his life story on his website:

<https://catstevens.com/life/>



This key event changes everything,

Another change came in the form of a near-death experience. Stevens had gone swimming at the house of Jerry Moss, his American record boss, at Malibu Beach, and after a half-hour could barely stay afloat in the perilous currents of the Pacific Ocean. He attempted to swim to land, but the sea was too strong. He realised he was going to drown and he called out to God. Miraculously the tide swiftly turned, a sudden wave lifted him and he swam easily back to shore.

His inner faith revealed itself further when his elder brother David gave him a copy of the Qur'an. It provided the key to the answers he had been looking for: "It was the timeless nature of the message," he said, "the words all seemed strangely familiar yet so unlike anything I had ever read before."

Privately, Stevens started applying Islam's spiritual values to his own life: he began praying directly to God and gradually cut down drinking, clubs and parties. He retreated from the music business and finally embraced Islam in 1977, changing his name to Yusuf Islam.

Task 1

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Cat Steven change his name?
2. Was it Allah or coincidence that helped Cat Stevens to safety?
3. Explain why Yusuf Islam found answers to life's puzzling questions in the Qur'an.

Task 2

Firstly, write 5 questions you would ask Cat Stevens in an interview about his time when he was 18 and had just had his first hit record.

Questions should get him thinking about his thoughts and feelings.

Secondly, write 5 questions to ask Cat, which should also get him thinking about thoughts and feelings, following the swimming incident.