

Silvana Sardi
Follow your Dreams

Gavin, Max, Rose and Isabel are excited about starting their first year at the Music, Acting and Dance Academy of London. They're all very different but they soon become good friends. It's going to be hard with lessons every day. They'll also have exams and shows to do. Then, a special person comes into their lives. How can Ernest help them follow their dreams?

In this reader you'll find:

- Focus on: Fun in London
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A2 Key style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Friendship | Emotions | Dreams

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Silvana Sardi

Follow your Dreams

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Book brief

- 1** Set in modern times, it tells the story of four students at MADAL, the Music, Acting and Dance Academy of London.
- 2** Rose, Isabel, Max and Gavin are all very different and each of them has a dream.
- 3** The story is about their first year at the academy and the good and bad times they have to face.
- 4** Ernest Baker encourages the four students to follow their dreams and brings out the best in Gavin.
- 5** Main themes include friendship, honesty and dreams.

Silvana Sardi

Follow your Dreams

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Silvana Sardi

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Main Characters



Rose

*She wants to become
a singer.*



Gavin

*He wants to become
an excellent
saxophone player.*



Isabel

*She's a friendly girl
and loves modern dancing.*



Max

He wants to be an actor.



Prof Bingley

*He's the head
of the academy.*



Ernest

*A kind elderly man,
he believes in following
your dreams.*

Reading A2 Key

- 1 Read about *Follow your Dreams*. Choose the correct word (A, B or C) to complete the text.

Follow your Dreams is the story about four young students (1) _____ their first year at the Music, Acting and Dance Academy of London. Each of (2) _____ has a dream. Rose (3) _____ to become a singer while Isabel loves dancing. Instead, the boys, Gavin and Max, are (4) _____ at music and acting. They're all (5) _____ different but they soon become good friends and decide to (6) _____ a flat together. They (7) _____ to work hard, preparing for exams and shows during the year. Gavin, (8) _____ also has a part-time job, has (9) _____ problem trying to do everything on time. (10) _____ he doesn't pass all his exams, he'll have to leave the academy.

- | | | | |
|----|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| | A says | B is | C speaks |
| 1 | A in | B on | C at |
| 2 | A they | B them | C their |
| 3 | A can | B must | C wants |
| 4 | A well | B good | C interested |
| 5 | A too | B enough | C very |
| 6 | A share | B live | C look |
| 7 | A must | B have | C should |
| 8 | A whose | B which | C who |
| 9 | A the | B some | C a |
| 10 | A If | B Until | C When |



Speaking and Writing

- 2 Ask two students these questions. Tick the box if they say yes, then complete the questionnaire with your answers, too.

Questionnaire

	S1	S2	Me
1 Do you like music?	☐	☐	☐
2 Can you play the piano, guitar or any other instrument?	☐	☐	☐
3 Can you sing?	☐	☐	☐
4 Have you ever been to the theatre?	☐	☐	☐
5 Have you ever had dancing lessons?	☐	☐	☐
6 Do you watch talent shows on TV?	☐	☐	☐
7 Would you like to be famous one day?	☐	☐	☐

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Listening

- 2 3 Listen to the start of Chapter 1 and choose the word you hear to complete the sentences.

It was Rose's first day of her ~~three~~ / four-year course at the academy.

- The young guy at the door was *tall* / *short* with fair hair.
- A *small* / *large* group of people was waiting to enter the building.
- Rose pushed the door open and ran *upstairs* / *downstairs*.
- She opened the door of a *classroom* / *cupboard*.
- Rose sat down at the *back* / *front* of Room 3.
- A young girl with long, *straight* / *curly* dark hair hurried into the room.
- Max was in Nepal with his *father* / *brother* last year.

Chapter 1

Welcome to MADAL

What a start to Rose's first day at the academy! First, a boy laughs at her because she stands looking at the door, then she opens a door to a cupboard! Luckily, Professor Bingley helps her find her classroom.

▶ 2 Rose stood in front of the big wooden doors of MADAL– the Music, Acting and Dance Academy of London. It was the first day of her three-year course, the first day of her dream to become a singer.

‘Shall I push the door open for you?’ said someone. ‘I think all these people behind us would like to go in.’

Rose jumped and turned round. A very tall, fair-haired young guy was looking down at her with a big smile on his face. Behind him, there was a large group of people waiting to enter the building.

Rose felt her face going red. She turned back to the door and pushed it open as hard as she could. She could hear the boy laughing behind her but she didn't look back. She ran quickly upstairs and opened the first door she saw; it was a cupboard full of cleaning stuff!

‘You must be a first year student, right?’ said a kind voice². ‘I'm Professor Bingley, the head of the academy. Follow me, there's a meeting for all of you in Room 3.’

¹ **stuff** things

² **voice** what you use to speak or sing

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Room 3 was already full of students. Rose sat down at the front. Professor Bingley was about to start, when a young girl, her long, straight dark hair flying everywhere, hurried into the room.

‘Sorry, sorry, I couldn’t find you all!’ said the girl smiling at everyone.

‘Please come and sit down Miss...?’ said Professor Bingley.

‘Dawson, Isabel Dawson,’ said Isabel sitting down next to Rose.

‘Well,’ said Professor Bingley, ‘first of all, welcome to the Music, Acting and Dance Academy of London, usually called MADAL. Does anyone know what a *madal* is?’

‘It’s a kind of drum they use in Nepal,’ said someone sitting at the back of the room.

‘Well, well!’ said Professor Bingley, ‘nobody usually knows that! What’s your name young man?’

‘Max Bloomfield; I was in Nepal last year with my father, that’s why I know,’ explained Max. ■

▶ 3

‘I don’t even know where Nepal is,’ whispered Isabel to Rose, laughing.

Rose smiled. Isabel was such a friendly girl, the kind of person Rose wanted to be, but she was so

A friendly girl called Isabel sits next to Rose. Rose would like to be like her. Instead, she finds it hard to talk to people. The professor is surprised when a boy called Max knows that a ‘madal’ is a kind of drum.

shy that she found it difficult to make friends.

‘Good for you, Max!’ said Professor Bingley. ‘Now, today some of our second year students will show you around the school. You’ll see where the classrooms are, the rehearsal¹ rooms, the theatre, the sound studios, the library and the student common room, where you can relax and have something to eat. Remember everybody, MADAL is the place where your dreams can come true², but it’s your HARD work that’ll make this possible. Ah, one more thing, I need to speak to Gavin Marshall. Is he here today?’

‘Yes, here I am,’ said Gavin standing up.

‘Ah, good. Come with me Gavin,’ said Professor Bingley, ‘then you can join the others.’

Rose watched Gavin as he left the room. *The nice boy at the door*, she thought.

‘Have you already got your eyes on somebody?’ said Isabel laughing.

Rose blushed³ and said: ‘No, it’s just that I met him this morning at the entrance.’

‘Ahh, if you say so!’ said Isabel, smiling. What’s your name?’

‘Rose, Rose Watson.’

¹ **rehearsal** practice for a show

² **come true** actually happen

³ **blush** turn red when you’re embarrassed

Professor Bingley wants to speak to Gavin Marshall after the meeting. He’s the boy who offered to open the main door for Rose. Isabel can see from Rose’s face that she likes him.

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‘Come on then, Rose or we’ll miss the tour!’

Gavin followed Professor Bingley to his office. He knew it was about his scholarship¹.

‘Well, Gavin,’ said Professor Bingley, ‘first of all, well done on winning the scholarship this year! As you know, this money will cover the cost of all your lessons but not for your room in the students’ hall. There are two terms² and at the end of each term there are exams that you have to pass. If you don’t pass them, we’ll cancel the scholarship. Is that clear?’

‘Yes, of course!’ said Gavin. ‘Don’t worry, Professor Bingley, I’ll work hard. I want to become an excellent saxophone³ player.’

‘Good! Ah, one more thing, Gavin. All scholarship students have to help in the school office – just a few hours a week, alright?’

‘No problem,’ said Gavin smiling.

‘Right, off you go!’ said Professor Bingley.

Outside the office, Gavin stopped smiling. *How am I going to find the time to study?* he thought. Professor Bingley didn’t know that Gavin needed to work to pay for his room. Living in London was

Gavin has to pass all his exams if he wants to keep his scholarship and he also has to work a few hours in the school office. The problem is that he already has another job in a pub to help pay for his room, so that won’t leave him much time to study. He wants to be a great saxophone player.

¹ **scholarship** money that is given by a school to help students pay for their lessons

² **term** a part of the school year

³ **saxophone** 

Gavin can't ask his mum for any money.

Gavin meets Isabel and Rose. Rose's face goes red again when Gavin laughs because he remembers her at the entrance that morning. Isabel wants to be a modern dancer and Rose, a singer.

expensive so Gavin already had a job in a pub. He couldn't ask his mum for any money. She only had a part-time job and his little sister was still at school. His dad was now in Australia with his 'new family' so there was no money coming from him.

Gavin walked into the common room. Isabel saw him, waved¹ and shouted: 'Hey! "Boy at the door this morning", come and sit with us!'

Rose blushed and looked into her coffee cup as Gavin came and sat down.

'Hi,' he said, 'I'm Gavin.'

'Hi, Gavin,' said Isabel smiling. 'I'm Isabel and this is Rose, but I think you've already met.'

'Oh, yes, I remember! This morning at the door! Hi, Rose!' said Gavin laughing.

Rose smiled, hoping that her face wasn't as red as the flowers on her dress.

'So, did you have a nice chat with Professor Bingley?' Isabel asked Gavin.

'Well, he told me what I have to do if I want to keep my scholarship to study the saxophone here.'

'Sax! Wow!' said Isabel. 'I love jazz. I'm a modern dancer and Rose is a singer.'

¹ wave 



Isabel, Rose, Gavin and Max are talking in the common room.



Just then, another boy came up to the table.

‘May I join you?’ he asked in a very polite way.

‘Ah, Max from Nepal!’ said Isabel, smiling. *He isn’t bad at all this Max from Nepal with his dark curly hair*, she thought.

Max is shy like Rose. He wants to be an actor but his family isn’t happy about it. They wanted him to go to Oxford University.

Rose noticed that Max blushed like she always did. She felt sorry for him.

‘Actually, I’m from Oxford,’ said Max, trying to smile. ‘I’m here to study to be an actor, even though my parents aren’t too happy about it. They wanted me to go to Oxford University.’

Isabel didn’t do well at school and left after Year 11. Then she did a dance course and worked in a supermarket. She’s the eldest of four children.

‘Oxford!’ said Isabel. ‘Wow! I left school after Year 11. My teachers didn’t mind – I wasn’t exactly a fantastic student!’ she laughed. ‘Then I did a part-time modern dance course. I also worked in a supermarket so I could save money to come and study here. My mum and dad have always let me decide for myself – maybe because I’m the eldest.’

‘How many brothers and sisters have you got?’ asked Rose.

‘Well, there’s Kevin who’s a year younger than me, so he’s 17, then the twins. They’re 10.’

‘It must be nice to come from a big family,’ said Rose quietly. ‘It’s always just been Dad and me. I can’t remember my mum. I was only three when

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she died. Dad wanted me to go to York University to study English but I've always loved singing. They say my mum was a great singer – that's the only reason Dad let me come here.'

'I'm an only child¹ too,' said Max. 'My mother and father were always too busy working to look after me so I grew up with my nanny², Dorothy – she's a lovely old lady. She's the only one I miss.'

'Oh, my poor boy!' What a HARD life!' said Gavin sarcastically³. 'At least you don't have to work to stay here. And they've just told me that I need to do some hours in the school office too! I'm already working most nights in a pub. I don't know when I'm going to find the time to study!'

Then someone asked them if they wanted to see the rest of the school.

'Come on!' said Isabel. 'Let's go!'

At 4 p.m., they all went to the students' hall to see their accommodation. Each flat had two bedrooms, a kitchen and bathroom. Rose and Isabel took the bigger room because they had so much stuff, while Gavin and Max had the smaller one. This was the start of their great adventure. ■

¹ **only child** when you have no brothers or sisters

² **nanny** a person who looks after children

³ **sarcastically** when you use words that mean the opposite of what you really want to say

Rose's mum died when she was only three. She lives with her dad. He wanted her to study English at university, but let her come to the academy because her mum was a good singer.

Max is an only child like Rose. His parents were too busy to look after him, so he had a nanny, the only person he misses.

Gavin, Rose, Max and Isabel get a flat together in the students' hall.

Think

Do you think the four students will become good friends? Why? / Why not?

Reading Comprehension

1 Who said what? Match the sentences from Chapter 1 with the correct person.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 ☒ 'Shall I push the door open for you?' | a Max |
| 2 ☐ 'You must be a first year student, right?' | ☒ b Gavin |
| 3 ☐ 'I was in Nepal last year with my father.' | c Rose |
| 4 ☐ 'I want to become an excellent saxophone player.' | d Isabel |
| 5 ☐ 'I'm here to study to be an actor.' | e Professor Bingley |
| 6 ☐ 'I did a part-time modern dance course.' | f Max |
| 7 ☐ 'They say my mum was a good singer.' | g Gavin |

Reading A2 Key

2 Complete the sentences about Chapter 1 with the correct answer (A, B or C).

Rose's dream is to become a singer.

A become B becoming ☒ C to become

- 1 Isabel was late for the meeting ____ she couldn't find the classroom.

A so B because C but

- 2 Max knows ____ a madal is.

A why B who C what

- 3 Rose is shy so she finds ____ difficult to make friends.

A it B a C the

- 4 Professor Bingley wanted to ____ to Gavin about his scholarship.

A tell B speak C ask

- 5 Gavin can't ask his mum ____ any money because she only works part-time.

A for B if C of

- 6 Max's parents were always ____ busy to look after him when he was a child.

A much B too C so

Speaking and Writing

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3 In Chapter 1, it's the first day for Rose, Gavin, Isabel and Max at the academy. Discuss these questions with a partner and write your answers.

- 1 How did you feel on your first day at school?
- 2 Which subjects do you study and how many lessons do you have a day?
- 3 How many terms are there in your school year?
- 4 How often do you have exams?
- 5 What's your favourite subject? Why?
- 6 Which subject do you find most difficult? Why?



Before-reading Activity

Listening

4 Listen to the start of Chapter 2. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| They were in their third month at MADAL. | ☐ | ☒ |
| 1 Not all their lessons were the same. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 Gavin had to work four hours in the office the next day. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 Isabel and Max were going home for the weekend. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 Gavin left to go and play basketball. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 Rose was angry with Gavin. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 Rose didn't go back to the flat. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7 Max doesn't think Gavin is the right guy for Rose. | ☐ | ☐ |