

C1-C2 Worksheet: A 10-Year-Old Fashion Designer - 17 June 2026

Article

When Max Alexander showed a 15-piece women's collection at Paris Fashion Week, the fashion world took notice for an unusual reason: the American designer was only 10. Reuters reported that Alexander, who began designing at four and is recognised by Guinness World Records as the world's youngest runway designer, now balances school with fittings, fabric choices and international attention. His story has carved out a rare space between childhood hobby and professional ambition.

The appeal is not only his age. Alexander's work often tries to show up as playful, sustainable and surprisingly assured, using unconventional materials such as coffee bean sacks for biodegradable dresses. A new documentary about his life, shown at the Tribeca Film Festival, presents a prodigy who can put together a runway collection while still dealing with ordinary school routines. That contrast is charming, but it also raises questions about scrutiny, protection and autonomy.

Many adults like stories about children who discover a passion early, because they suggest creativity can take off before anyone teaches it formally. Yet admiration can quickly grow out of proportion if a child is expected to perform for adults all the time. The healthiest version of Alexander's story may be one in which talent is encouraged but not exploited, and childhood is not treated as an obstacle to success. The challenge is to hold on to wonder without pushing young people into becoming miniature professionals too soon.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. The article says Max Alexander showed a collection at Paris Fashion Week at the age of 10.
2. Alexander is described as someone who began designing only after becoming a teenager.
3. The article says his work includes sustainable ideas and unconventional materials.
4. The writer presents the documentary as proof that child success is always harmless.
5. The article contrasts professional fashion work with ordinary school routines.
6. The writer says childhood should be treated as an obstacle to success.
7. The final paragraph suggests that admiration can become too intense if children are expected to perform constantly.
8. The article argues for encouraging talent while protecting childhood.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. took notice	A. to become successful or popular quickly
2. balances school with	B. to appear or present itself in a particular way
3. carved out	C. to keep or preserve an idea or feeling
4. show up	D. to manage school at the same time as something else
5. put together	E. children made to act like adults in work
6. take off	F. to create or assemble something
7. grow out of proportion	G. forcing children towards something
8. hold on to	H. paid attention
9. pushing young people into	I. to become too great or excessive
10. miniature professionals	J. created a position or role for yourself

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. prodigy	A. unusual
2. runway	B. inventiveness
3. sustainable	C. gifted child
4. unconventional	D. film
5. biodegradable	E. independence
6. documentary	F. eco-friendly
7. scrutiny	G. catwalk
8. autonomy	H. examination
9. creativity	I. used unfairly
10. exploited	J. compostable

Use the new language

Please choose 5 words or phrases and make your own sentence using the new word or phrase.

Discussion Questions

Student A

1. What did you enjoy doing most when you were 10 years old?
2. Did you have any talents as a child that adults noticed?
3. If you had had to choose your future job at 10, what would it have been?
4. Do you think children's hobbies usually say much about their adult lives?
5. Would you have enjoyed being interviewed or filmed as a child?
6. What creative skill would you like to have had when you were younger?
7. Is fashion an interesting form of creativity, or not really your thing?
8. What should parents do when a child becomes extremely good at something?

Student B

1. Should exceptionally talented children be protected from fame, even if they enjoy performing?
2. Where is the line between supporting a child's gift and pushing them too hard?
3. Is it better for children to specialise early or try many different activities?
4. How should schools respond when a pupil already has a serious career-level talent?
5. Does social media make child success more inspiring or more risky?
6. Should a young prodigy be treated mainly as a child, an artist, or a brand?
7. Can adult industries such as fashion ever be a healthy space for children?
8. What responsibilities do parents, journalists and audiences have when a child becomes famous?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=T, 2=F, 3=T, 4=F, 5=T, 6=F, 7=T, 8=T

Phrase Match: 1=H, 2=D, 3=J, 4=B, 5=F, 6=A, 7=I, 8=C, 9=G, 10=E

Synonym Match: 1=C, 2=G, 3=F, 4=A, 5=J, 6=D, 7=H, 8=E, 9=B, 10=I

Example sentences with the phrases

1. When the young designer appeared in Paris, the fashion world took notice.
2. He balances school with fittings, interviews and creative work.
3. Some young artists have carved out unusual careers before adulthood.
4. His designs show up as playful, confident and personal.
5. A small team helped him put together the collection.
6. A child's hobby can suddenly take off online.
7. Adult praise can quickly grow out of proportion if a child is treated like a professional.
8. Parents should help children hold on to ordinary childhood experiences.
9. Adults must be careful about pushing young people into professional roles.
10. Children should not be expected to become miniature professionals.