

**Exercise 1:** Look at the image below and **write down** the **first six words** that come to mind. Discuss your words with a partner. **5-7 min**



|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |

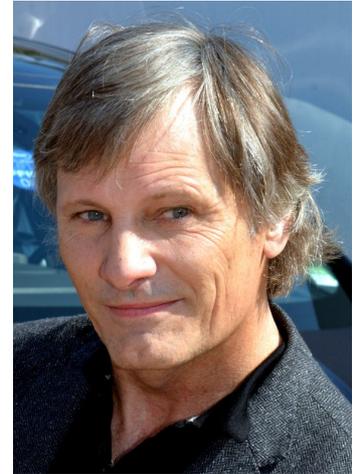
## Exercise 2:

## Reading

*One Grand* is a curated arts website in which celebrated thinkers, writers, artists, and other creative minds share the ten books they would take to their metaphorical desert island, providing the audience a window into the minds of some of the world's most engaging people.

### Viggo Mortensen

The Danish-American actor Viggo Mortensen made his debut in 1985 in *Witness*, working alongside Harrison Ford. Mortensen went on to star in *A History of Violence*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *On the Road*, and several others, earning Academy Award nominations for *Captain Fantastic* and *Eastern Promises*. After a childhood growing up in New York City, Venezuela, Denmark and Argentina, (his varied upbringing revealing itself in his choices below,) he ventured to Hollywood. "The following are ten books I'd take with me if I were stranded indefinitely on a desert island " says



Mortensen.. "We need to broaden our perspectives and our points of view to see what other people think—to consider the arguments of people we instinctively don't agree with," It's a process that can be done, happily, with reading.

**Read Viggo Mortensen's book choices on page 3 and answer the questions below**

### According to Viggo Mortensen

1. Why is "The Origin of the Species important?"
2. What would not exist without Plato?
3. What are two criticisms of The History of Western Philosophy?
4. Why is Shakespeare the greatest of all poets?
5. How would US citizens benefit from reading "A People's History of the United States"?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1 The Origin of Species---</b> Charles Darwin                      | <p>There is nothing more important than the natural world we live in, and we are bound to affect it positively or negatively by virtue of our relatively brief individual and <b>collective</b> presence. Darwin's visionary study of the evolution of living beings on our planet is a crucial guide to our understanding of why we are here and what we might to do to live in harmony with our environment</p> |
| <b>2 The Republic-</b><br>Plato                                       | <p>The notions we have in the United States and in other countries that function to a better or lesser degree as nation states with variations of democratic, representative government as their political systems would not exist without Plato's work.</p>  |
| <b>3 Tao Te Ching---</b><br>Lao Tzu                                   | <p>For me this is as every bit as important a guide in terms of personal moral ethics as Plato's work is. Another side of the same coin. The timeless lessons that can be had from Plato and Lao Tzu reinforce each other in many ways.</p>   |
| <b>4 The History of Western Philosophy</b><br>--Bertrand Russell      | <p>With all of its inevitable sins of omission and generalisation, this great compilation of Western philosophical ideas and currents from pre-Socratic times until the middle of the 20th century is an invaluable and accessible guide to our shared social history.</p>  |
| <b>5 Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies---</b><br>William Shakespeare | <p>There are many poets that I might have included in this list of books, but, to my mind, Shakespeare is the greatest of all in terms of the breadth of his knowledge, his lyricism, humour and the universal applicability of his work.</p>   |
| <b>6 The Divine Comedy---</b> Dante Alighieri                         | <p>Right alongside Shakespeare, Dante's work explores and highlights enduring universal truths related to the human condition as well as any writer I know of.</p>  |
| <b>7 The Gaucho Martín Fierro--</b><br>José Hernández                 | <p>I debated between Cervantes' "Don Quijote" and "Martín Fierro," because they both are great classic epic stories in the Spanish language, but ended up choosing José Hernández's great poetic work because of my early connection with it as a child growing up in Argentina.</p>  |
| <b>8 Faust: A Tragedy</b><br>---Johann Wolfgang von Goethe            | <p>A great work of literature and an extraordinary cautionary tale, this story has much to teach us about psychology, politics and history. More than ever, it can allow us to look at ourselves and our rulers with open eyes.</p>   |
| <b>9 Danmarks Krønike</b><br>---Saxo Grammaticus                      | <p>This is the best book for understanding the early history of society, literature and politics of Northern Europe. Without Saxo's research and extensive work in compiling ancient texts and oral stories, our knowledge of early Nordic, Germanic, Celtic and English cultures and nation-building would be far poorer than it is.</p>   |
| <b>10 A People's History of the United States</b><br>---Howard Zinn   | <p>If every U.S. citizen could have the benefit of knowing Zinn's collection of historical texts from a wide range of relatively known and unknown people throughout our country's history, there would be a lot better quality in our current political class and in the style and substance of our governance.</p>  |

**Exercise 3: Match these key words from the text on page 2&3 with their meaning**

*timeless    by virtue of (4)    a connection    to curate    collective    crucial    a notion  
metaphorical    omission    cautionary    breadth(2)    to reinforce    to explore(2)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is to collect, select and present information or items such as pictures, video, music, etc. for people to use or enjoy, using your professional or expert knowledge (*especially on the Internet*)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a word, phrase, image etc that is intended to represent or emphasise particular aspects of something else--*Everyone breathed a \_\_\_\_\_ sigh of relief.*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is by means of or because of something

4. \_\_\_\_\_ is done or shared by all members of a group of people; involving a whole group or society

5. \_\_\_\_\_ is extremely important, because it will affect other things

6. \_\_\_\_\_ is an idea, a belief or an understanding of something

7. \_\_\_\_\_ is not appearing to be affected by the passing of time or by changes in fashion

8. \_\_\_\_\_ is to make a feeling, an idea, etc. stronger

9. \_\_\_\_\_ is the act of not including somebody / something or not doing something

10. \_\_\_\_\_ is a wide range of knowledge, interests, etc.

11. \_\_\_\_\_ is to examine something completely or carefully in order to find out more about it

12. \_\_\_\_\_ is something that connects two facts, ideas, etc.

13. \_\_\_\_\_ is giving advice or a warning

**Exercise 4: Find and highlight the keywords in the text (see example: **collective**)**

## Exercise 5:

## Listening

*Desert Island Discs* is a radio programme broadcast on BBC Radio 4. It was first broadcast on 29 January 1942. Each week a guest, called a 'castaway', is asked to choose eight recordings, a book and a luxury item that they would take if they were to be cast away on a desert island, whilst discussing their lives and the reasons for their choices. Tom Hanks was the castaway on Friday, 13 May 2016. His parents split up when he was 5 and he went to live with his father. By the age of 10 he'd lived in ten different houses in five different cities. He loved school and developed a passion for history which is reflected in many of his films.

Click on the link and listen for answers to the questions below

[Interview with Tom Hanks- May 2016 47minutes](#)

1. What did he and Bob Zemeckis think a cast away would miss the most?(2:30-2:44)
2. What was the basis for choosing his 8 recordings? (2:50- 3:29 mins)
3. How long does it take to make a movie? (3:52 mins)
4. What important lessons (3) did Tom learn on his first job? (6:32 –6:53 mins)
5. What year did Tom Hanks receive his first Oscar?
6. What was his father's area of work? (14:11–14:14 mins)
7. What was his mother's first name? (15: 36)
8. Who narrated the Thames Television series, "The World at War"?
9. What age was Tom when his son, Colin, was born?
10. What advice did Tom Hank's neurologist give him on senility? (*memory loss*)
11. What book would Tom take to his Desert Island?
12. What luxury would Tom take to his island?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 6:****Talking****5/10 mins**

Choose 5 recordings you would take if you were to be cast away on a Desert island  
Write down your choices and include a short summary for each. Prepare to talk with a partner about the importance each recording holds for you.

| <b>Recording and Artist</b> | <b>Summary</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1                           |                |
| 2                           |                |
| 3                           |                |
| 4                           |                |
| 5                           |                |

**Exercise 7:****Talking****5/10 mins**

What 2 books and luxury item would you take to your Desert island ?  
Write a short summary for each book and discuss with your partner

| <b>Book and Author</b> | <b>Summary</b> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1                      |                |
| 2                      |                |
| <b>Luxury</b>          |                |