

The First Lady of Song



After her mother died, Ella had a lot of trouble. Her grades (1)_____ at school. She couldn't find a good place to live. She became an orphan, a child whose parents are dead and gone. (2)_____, she was sent to the New York Training School for Girls, but she escaped. And for a time, she was (3)_____.

But Ella Fitzgerald loved to dance and sing. And when she was just (4)_____, she debuted at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York. (Many other artists debuted at the Apollo Theater as well, including James Brown, the Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder, and Mariah Carey.) After Ella's (5)_____, she began singing with a big band (6)_____ by the drummer Chick Webb.

With Chick Webb and his band, Ella recorded a number of hit songs. But in 1938, she recorded her first big hit. The song was an old (7)_____ rhyme called "A-Tisket, A-Tasket." Ella (8)_____ it with jazz style. Today, the song is a jazz standard, and it even won a special Grammy Award for its historical (9)_____. The song's opening lines go like this:

A-tisket a-tasket
A brown and yellow basket
I sent a letter to my mommy
And on the way I dropped it

I dropped it, I dropped it
Yes, on the way I dropped it
A little girlie picked it up
And put it in her pocket

Ella's recording career lasted (10)_____ years. She won (11)_____ Grammy Awards, sold over forty million albums, and received (12)_____ from two presidents. Critics praised her great vocal (13)_____ and pure tone. Even in her old age, Ella's voice sounded young. She continues to (14)_____ to all kinds of people, and she is known as one of the greatest jazz singers of all time. That is why music lovers everywhere call Ella Fitzgerald the "First (15)_____ of Song."



THINK ABOUT IT

1. Write your discussion and comprehension questions.

WORD FOCUS: LIST NEW OR HARD WORDS

verbal

He's a *** person. He talks a lot.

Beeoasis Step

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