

# Canadian Celebrity Readers

# Famous Female Musicians

## Grades 4-8

**Written by Ruth Solski**  
**Illustrated by Dan Day**

**About the author:**

Ruth Solski was an educator for 30 years. She has written many educational resources over the years and is the founder of S&S Learning Materials. As a writer, her main goal is to provide teachers with a useful tool they can implement in their classrooms to bring the joy of learning to children.

**ISBN: 978-1-55495-024-9**

**Copyright 2009**

**All Rights Reserved \* Printed in Canada**

Published in Canada by:  
S&S Learning Materials  
15 Dairy Avenue  
Napane, Ontario  
K7R 1M4  
[www.sslearning.com](http://www.sslearning.com)

Permission to Reproduce

Permission is granted to the individual teacher who purchases one copy of this book to reproduce the student activity material for use in his/her classroom only. Reproduction of these materials for an entire school or for a school system, or for other colleagues or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher. "We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) for this project."



# Canadian Celebrity Readers

## ★ Famous Female Musicians ★

### Table of Contents

At A Glance™ .....	2
About This Book.....	4

### Biographies and Worksheets:

Melissa O'Neil.....	5
Avril Lavigne .....	7
Alanis Morissette .....	9
Shania Twain .....	11
Nellie Furtado .....	13
Celine Dion .....	15
Sarah McLachlan .....	17
Diana Krall .....	19
Jann Arden.....	21
Eva Avila .....	23
Anne Murray .....	25
Susan Aglukark.....	28
Chantal Kreviazuk.....	30
Sarah Harmer .....	32
Fefe Dobson .....	34
Terri Clark .....	36
Sass Jordan.....	38
Jully Black.....	40
Bif Naked .....	42
Feist .....	44
Answer Key.....	46

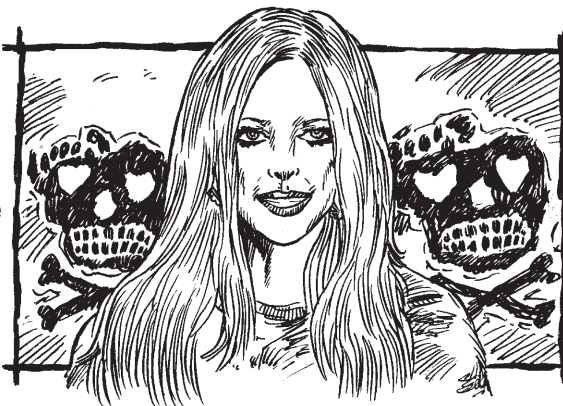
**A**vril Ramona

Lavigne is a world famous Canadian singer and songwriter who is also well known for her “skater punk” persona. She rose to fame at the age of 18 with her single called “Complicated”, in the spring of 2002. It scaled the charts across the continent and by the summer, the track had reached the top spot among Canadian singles. The popularity of “Complicated” paved the way for the success of Avril’s first full-length CD, “Let Go”.

Avril was born in Belleville, Ontario on September 27, 1984 to devout Christian parents of French-Canadian descent. When Avril was five years old, her parents moved to a small nearby town called Napanee and it is here where she grew up and attended church and school. At the age of two, Avril’s ability to sing was noticed by her mother during church services when she sang the hymns along with her and the congregation.

During her early years, she sang in the local church choir and at the age of ten she began singing country music in competitions at local fairgrounds. Three years later, her vocal talent won her the grand prize in a radio station contest which was a trip to Ottawa to perform a duet in a concert with another famous Canadian country music star, Shania Twain.

By the time Avril reached high school, she began sending videotapes of her stage performances to labels and management companies throughout North America. She was discovered by her first professional manager while singing at a Chapters bookstore in Kingston, Ontario. By the age of sixteen, she was signed by Arista Records which arranged for her to fly to New York City to meet other songwriters and begin working on a demo tape. The representatives of Arista Records were



so impressed with her voice, they immediately signed Avril to a contract at the age of sixteen.

Avril briefly returned to Canada, collected her belongings and then returned to Manhattan to begin her professional career, accompanied by

her older brother Matt as an escort. Avril has always approached life with an independent attitude of always doing her own thing and when she discovered she was signed to Arista as strictly a vocalist, she refused to sing songs written by someone else. She insisted on having a hand in the writing process. Avril and the New York songwriters did not work well together, so she left New York and went to Los Angeles. It was here on the West Coast that she met producer and songwriter Cliff Magness and developed a good working rapport. Together they worked on Avril’s debut album.

In 2002, Avril was named “Best New Artist at the MTV Video Music Awards and at the 2003 Juno Awards she had six nominations and won four Junos. She has also been nominated for eight Grammy Awards but has not won any to date. In February 2004, Avril begin dating fellow Canadian singer Deryck Whibley, the lead singer/guitarist of the pop punk band Sum 41. On June 27, 2005, Deryck proposed to Avril during a gondola ride in Venice and they were married at a private estate in California on July 15, 2006

Avril exhibits musical skills that are far greater than many of her peers. She writes her own songs, plays guitar exceptionally well and her voice displays a very versatile style and range. She is truly a rare talent and a complicated young woman. ★



# Avril Lavigne

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Skills

## Vocabulary Skills

**Underline the correct answer and complete each sentence.**

1. Avril Lavigne was born in \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Ottawa, Napanee, Belleville)**

2. Her mother noticed Avril's singing ability at the age of \_\_\_\_\_.

**(seven, nine, two)**

3. At the age of ten Avril performed in concert with \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Celine Dion, Terri Clark, Shania Twain)**

4. Avril's hit single was called \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Sk8ter Boi, When You're Gone, Complicated)**

5. Avril was discovered by Arista Records during a performance at a \_\_\_\_\_.

**(fairground, Chapters' bookstore, concert)**

6. Avril signed her first contract with Artista Records at the age of \_\_\_\_\_.

**(sixteen, nineteen, seventeen)**

7. Deryck Whibley proposed to Avril during a \_\_\_\_\_.

**(gondala ride, bus trip, concert)**

8. In the year 2003, Avril won \_\_\_\_\_.

**(six Junos, five Junos, four Junos)**

**Find words in the biography that match the following meanings. Record them on the lines provided.**

1. difficult to understand

\_\_\_\_\_

2. to climb to the top

\_\_\_\_\_

3. to accompany and protect someone

\_\_\_\_\_

4. able to get along

\_\_\_\_\_

5. an equal in the same profession or social rank

\_\_\_\_\_

**Divide the following words into syllables. For example: *per - form*.**

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

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

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

**Search for five compound words in the biography. Record them on the lines below.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**O**n June 1, 1974 at Riverside Hospital in Ottawa, Ontario, Alanis Nadine Morissette and her twin brother Wade were born. The proud parents were Alan Richard Morissette of French-Canadian descent and Georgia Mary Ann Feurstein of Hungarian descent. Alanis also has an older brother named Chad. Alanis is known as a rock artist, singer, songwriter, actress and a record producer. She plays the guitar, flute, keyboards, and harmonica as well as being a superb vocalist.



At the age of six, Alanis began playing the piano and it was then that she realized she wanted to express herself through the arts. At nine, she was writing and composing her own songs. She sent her first song called “Fate Stay With Me” to a local musician, Lindsay Morgan, who took her on as his protégé.

In 1986, at the age of 10, Alanis had her first acting job. She performed in five episodes of the children’s television show “You Can’t Do That on Television”. The money that she made from the show she used to release her first song as a single. Alanis also performed in Ottawa’s Tulip Festival and several other singing gigs such as singing the national anthem at sporting events and trying out on the popular American talent show “Star Search.”

When Alanis was 14, she was signed to MCA/Canada and her first album, “Alanis,” was made. While in high school, Alanis won a platinum album and a Juno Award for Most Promising Female Vocalist. Between the ages of 14 to 18, Alanis suffered from anorexia and bulimia nervosa during the making of her first album due to professional pressure and managerial demands. The studio felt that she couldn’t be successful if she was fat and as a result she lived on a diet of carrots, black coffee and Melba toast. Eventually, she began therapy which was a long process to reprogram her brain.

Alanis’ second album, “Now is the Time,” was not as successful and failed commercially. Her contract with MCA/Canada was over and she did not have someone to publish and produce her music.

In 1993, after graduating from high school, Alanis moved to Toronto to work with other songwriters in order to get her career back on track, but the results were not successful. Even a trip to Nashville, Tennessee, proved fruitless. Finally she went to Los Angeles and found a writer named Glen Ballard who encouraged her to express her emotions in her songs. Her third album, “Jagged Little Pill,” was written and recorded in the spring of 1995 and she signed a deal with Madonna’s Maverick Records. “Jagged Little Pill” has sold 30 million copies around the world turning it into the highest selling female album and the third highest selling album of all time.

During her busy career, Alanis has written many songs, recorded numerous albums, and performed in ten world tours. She has won seven Grammys and 12 Juno awards to honour her vocal and song writing ability. Alanis’ aggressive and genuine lyrics have shown people everywhere that they too can overcome adversity and heartbreak in order to soar to great heights. ★



# Alanis Morissette

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Skills

**A fact is something that is known to be true. An opinion is what a person believes. It may or may not be true. Write F before the sentences that are facts and O before sentences that are opinions.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Wade is Alanis' twin brother.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Alanis Morissette was one of the most unlikely stars of the mid-1990's.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Some music critics claim that Alanis is a versatile vocalist.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Alanis' third album, "Jagged Little Pill," was a great success.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Alanis won a Juno Award for her album "Alanis."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Alanis began her career as a childstar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Her career might have been over if she hadn't found Glenn Ballard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The pressures of the music business caused Alanis to have an eating disorder.

**9. Record a checkmark beside each word that describes Alanis Morissette's personality.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ prodigy    \_\_\_\_\_ insecure    \_\_\_\_\_ lazy
- \_\_\_\_\_ fearful    \_\_\_\_\_ hardworking    \_\_\_\_\_ weak
- \_\_\_\_\_ talented    \_\_\_\_\_ successful    \_\_\_\_\_ tough
- \_\_\_\_\_ cruel    \_\_\_\_\_ sincere    \_\_\_\_\_ sad

## Vocabulary Skills

**Write the words from the biography that have the same meanings on the lines provided.**

- 1. a continuation of a story or play  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. one whose interests and careers are cared for  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. not wanting to eat; loss of appetite  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. an eating disorder that causes over-eating and vomiting \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. misfortune; hardship \_\_\_\_\_

**A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word. Locate the synonyms in the biography and record them on the lines provided.**

- 6. many \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. realistic \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. let go \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. excellent \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. recognize \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. treatment \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. singer \_\_\_\_\_