Greatest Love Of All – Whitney Houston – Notes

- **Activity type:** gap fill, opposites, vocabulary.
- **Grammar:** Comparatives, Superlatives
- **Level:** Elementary, Pre-Intermediate
- **Time:** 30 mins.
- **Note:** This was one of Whitney Houston’s biggest hits, a cover of a song already recorded by George Benson. Released on Whitney’s 1985 debut album, it was a hit the following year - The New York Times called the song a compelling assertion of spiritual devotion, black pride, and family loyalty while Rolling Stone wrote that as the song builds, Houston “slowly pours on the soul, slips in some churchy phrasing, holds notes a little longer and shows off her glorious voice.” The video was filmed at Harlem’s Apollo Theater in New York City. Whitney appears as a successful singer about to perform in front of an audience. She reminisces about when she was a child in a talent competition, receiving encouragement from her mother, played in the video by Houston’s mother Cissy Houston.

1) Revise the Comparative and Superlative forms if necessary. Give each student a copy of the folded worksheet and ask them to complete Exercise 1.
   **Key:**
   1. more difficult
   2. greatest
   3. easier

2) Students match the opposites.
   **Key:**
   always  never
   beauty  ugliness
   follow  lead
   give  take
   hate  love
   lost  found
   more difficult  easier
   nobody  everybody
   outside  inside
   past  future
   shame  pride
   succeed  fail
   weakness  strength

3) Ask students to complete the biography.
   **Key:**
   Whitney Houston started singing when she was a child, and became one of most famous people in America. “The Greatest Love Of All” was one of the biggest selling singles in America in 1986. Whitney Houston starred in the film “The Bodyguard” in 1992, but many critics thought her acting was not as good as her singing. The same year she married Bobby Brown, the singer with New Edition, then the most successful group in America. For many years they had the happiest marriage in show business, but in 2007 they divorced. Whitney died in February 2012.

4) Play the song. Students tick the words as they hear them (not all the words are in the song).

5) Ask students to unfold the worksheet. Before playing the song ask them to try to insert the missing words in the correct gaps, based on their previous listening and context.

6) Play the song. Students check and correct.

7) Correct, and sing together.
1  Complete the sentences using the Comparatives or Superlatives of the following adjectives: easy    difficult    great

1. Learning to ski is ______________ than learning to ride a bike.
2. My mother thinks Elvis Presley is the ___________ singer of all time!
3. English is ___________ than Greek.

2  Match the words with their opposites.

always   easier
beauty   everybody
give   fail
hate   future
lost   inside
more difficult   lead
nobody   love
outside   never
past   pride
shame   strength
succeed   take
weakness   ugliness

3  Complete the biography using the Comparatives or Superlatives.

Whitney Houston started singing when she was a child, and became one of _____________ people in America. “The Greatest Love Of All” was one of _____________ selling singles in America in 1986.

Whitney Houston starred in the film “The Bodyguard” in 1992, but many critics thought her acting was ___________ as her singing. The same year she married Bobby Brown, the singer with New Edition, then ___________ group in America.

For many years they had ___________ marriage in show business, but in 2007 they divorced. Whitney died in February 2012.

4  Complete the lyrics with the correct word from Exercise 2.

I believe the children are our __________
Teach them well and let them ____ the way
Show them all the beauty they possess ___
Give them a sense of ____ to make it ___
Let the children’s laughter remind us how we used to be

__________’s searching for a hero
People need someone to look up to
I ___________ anyone who fulfilled my needs
A lonely place to be
So I learned to depend on me

Chorus:
I decided long ago, _________ to walk in anyone's shadows
If I _________, if I _________
At least I live as I believe
No matter what they _________ from me
They can't _________ away my dignity
Because the greatest _________ of all

Is happening to me
I _________ the greatest _________ of all
The greatest _________ of all
Is easy to achieve
Learning to _________ yourself
It is the greatest _________ of all

I believe the children are our _________
Teach them well and let them _________ the way
Show them all the beauty they possess _________
Give them a sense of _________ to make it _________
Let the children’s laughter remind us how we used to be

Repeat Chorus
And if by chance, that special place
That you've been dreaming of
Leads you to a lonely place
Find your _________ in _________
I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be
Everybody's searching for a hero
People need someone to look up to
I never found anyone who fulfilled my needs
A lonely place to be
So I learned to depend on me

I decided long ago, never to walk in anyone's shadows
If I fail, if I succeed
At least I live as I believe
No matter what they take from me
They can't take away my dignity
Because the greatest love of all
Is happening to me
I found the greatest love of all
Inside of me
The greatest love of all
Is easy to achieve
Learning to love yourself
It is the greatest love of all

I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be

I decided long ago, never to walk in anyone's shadows
If I fail, if I succeed
At least I live as I believe
No matter what they take from me
They can't take away my dignity
Because the greatest love of all
Is happening to me
I found the greatest love of all
Inside of me
The greatest love of all
Is easy to achieve
Learning to love yourself
It is the greatest love of all

And if by chance, that special place
That you've been dreaming of
Leads you to a lonely place
Find your strength in love