

# Yuna Kim



## All About Yuna

Yuna was born on September 5, 1990 in Bucheon, Gyeonggi, South Korea. She is a professional figure skater and one of the most famous female athletes in South Korea.

## Top of the Competition

Yuna is the first female figure skater to win all four of these prestigious competitions:

- The Winter Olympic Games
- The World Championships
- The Four Continents Championships
- The ISU Grand Prix.

## Learning to Skate

Yuna began skating when she was six years old. At the age of eleven, she became the youngest Korean skater to complete the five different triple jumps.

Yuna Kim is exceptional because she combines creativity, style, musical sense, graceful skating, technical skills and incredible speed. She inspires young skaters to believe that anything is possible.

## Yuna in the Media

Yuna Kim is considered one of the best female skaters of all time. She was the highest paid athlete at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

She has been named a 'Korean Power Celebrity' by American magazine *Forbes*, as well as being listed in *Time Magazine's* 100 World's Most Influential People.

## Making a Difference

Yuna Kim donates prize money, as well as profits from her ice shows, to others in need. She donated her prize money from the 2010 Winter Olympic Games to help relief efforts in Haiti, after the nation suffered a catastrophic earthquake.

Yuna is a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund. She also helps other young skaters to pursue their dreams by paying for their training.

Yuna says:

**"I am not trying my best because it is the Olympics. I try my best always."**

# Brooke Boney

## Who is Brooke Boney?

Brooke Boney is a Gamilaroi woman and journalist who works in print, television and radio. Brooke grew up in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, Australia on Woonaruah country, with her mother and five younger brothers and sisters.

## Leaving School

Brooke left school before finishing Year 12, the final year of schooling in Australia. She was unsure, at first, of what she wanted to do. Brooke later worked at the Australian newspaper, *The Financial Review*, before deciding to study journalism at university.

## Diversity in the Media

Growing up, it was obvious to Brooke that images of and stories about Australia's First Nations people on the television and in other media were limited and stereotypical. Brooke says she became a journalist to help tell positive stories about Indigenous Australians. She is committed to providing more positive role models for young Indigenous kids by increasing the visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the media.



## Rising Up

Supported by Jumbunna, her Sydney university's Indigenous Learning Centre, Brooke finished her studies. Upon graduating she volunteered at Koori Radio, Sydney's only First Nations radio station. Since then, Brooke has worked in commercial television news and for public broadcasters. She has been a political reporter in Canberra for NITV, Australia's National Indigenous Television network.

Brooke has also worked as a mentor for AIME, a now global organisation that helps empower Indigenous high school-aged kids by 'building bridges' between their schools and local universities.

**Brooke's work in the Australian media shows young Indigenous girls that their voices are of value.**

# Malala Yousafzai

## Who is Malala?

Malala is a young Pakistani Human Rights Activist who fights for the rights of girls and women to receive an education. She risked her life for the cause and has changed history.

## Malala's Home and Family

Malala was born on July 12, 1997 in Mingora, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. She grew up with her two younger brothers, mother and father and practises the religion of Islam.

## Losing the Right to Go to School

Many Pakistani girls did not attend school. However, Malala's father was a teacher who ran a school for girls, which Malala attended. She loved school and had big dreams of becoming a teacher, a doctor or a politician. When the Taliban (a movement of religious students from Pashtun) began to take control of the area where Malala lived, they demanded that all girls' schools be shut down. Women were no longer allowed to vote, or to have jobs. All women and girls were to stay home unless wearing a burqa (a garment that covers the head, face and body) and accompanied by a man.

## Diary of a Pakistani Schoolgirl

In 2009, Malala began to write a blog about the destruction and closure of more than 100 girls' schools in Pakistan. She became famous for writing her blog and began speaking out, in public, against the Taliban. Despite the Taliban threatening to kill her, she bravely continued fighting for the rights of girls and women to receive an education in Pakistan.



## The Most Courageous Voice

In 2012, Malala was on her school bus when a masked gunman got onto the bus and asked "Who is Malala?" He said he would shoot everyone on the bus if they did not tell. When Malala's scared friends looked her way, the gunman shot Malala.

The bullet passed through her head, missing her left eye and her brain.

While in hospital, in intensive care, the world outside was supporting her cause. Malala survived. She continues to fight for peace and equality. Malala Yousafzai is the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Malala says:

**"I tell my story not because it is unique, but because it is not. It is the story of many girls."**

# J.K. Rowling



## Who is J.K. Rowling?

J.K. Rowling is most famously known as the author of the *Harry Potter* series. Her creative genius has not only made her the most highly paid author in 2017, but an advocate of women and girls in need.

Joanne, or Jo (as she calls herself), uses a great deal of her money to fund charities in Scotland and support aid work all around the world.

## Why a “pen name”?

The publishers of her book doubted that young boys would want to buy and read the first *Harry Potter* book if they knew that it was written by a woman. They asked for the book to be published with two initials, rather than her first name. The ‘K’ in her pen name, J.K. Rowling, is taken from her grandmother’s name - Kathleen.

## The Volant Charitable Trust

The Volant Trust is Jo’s passion project. It is named after her mother, who passed away after having lived with the debilitating disease, Multiple Sclerosis. Charities can apply for grants and funding through the Trust.

Jo is passionate about helping women and children out of poverty, assisting single-parent families and contributing to Multiple Sclerosis research.

## How did Jo become a writer?

Jo began writing at the age of six. She wrote her first novel at age eleven. It was about seven cursed diamonds and the people who owned them.

Before becoming a published author, Jo worked as a researcher at Amnesty International. During the seven years it took to write *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*, Jo was faced with many ups and downs. She gave birth to her first daughter and, shortly after, divorced from her first husband. As a single mother she worked as a teacher in Edinburgh, finishing the manuscript for the first *Harry Potter* book in any spare time she could find.

Jo says:

**“We do not need magic to transform our world. We carry all of the power we need inside ourselves already.”**

# Dr. Mae Jemison



## Mae the Soldier

From 1983 to 1985, Mae volunteered in the United States Peace Corps. As medical officer, she was in charge of everyone's health. She also worked on curing illness in the Centre for Disease Control.

## Mae the Activist

While at university, Mae noticed inequality between herself and the white male students. She joined the Black Students Union and ended up leading them. She campaigned for women and minorities to be treated as equally capable students.

## Mae the TV Star

*Star Trek* was Mae's favourite show about space, so she was amazed to be asked to appear on the show! She also hosted *World of Wonder* on the Discovery Channel and had made guest appearances on various documentaries.

## Mae the Dancer

At 11, Mae fell in love with dancing. She continued her interest through her schooling and into university. She even choreographed a musical and dance production.

## Mae the Doctor

Mae studied to be a doctor at Cornell Medical College. While studying she travelled to Thailand, Cuba and Kenya to help people there. She graduated and became a medical doctor in 1981.

## Mae the Astronaut

Mae was inspired to join the astronaut program by Lieutenant Uhura on *Star Trek* (played by Nichelle Nichols) and the first female astronaut, Sally Ride. She was accepted in 1987. Five years later, she flew on the 50th shuttle flight as a mission specialist, and spent 8 days and nights in space.

## Mae the Scientist

Science education is very important to Mae. During her life, she has been a professor at various universities. She is also a member of many science foundations and has even started her own research companies in many scientific fields.

# Jessica Watson

## Meet Jessica

Could you imagine living on a bus? How about a boat? Well, Australian Jessica Watson has lived on both! It was while she was living on the boat that Jessica decided she wanted to become the youngest person to sail, solo and unassisted, around the world. With an infectious smile and a fiery passion for life, Jessica Watson has inspired thousands of young people across the globe. Australia's ex-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd called her an extraordinary young Australian and the country's "newest hero".

## What a Winner!

Jessica has won the following awards:

- Spirit of Sport
- Young Performer of the Year
- Adventurer of the Year
- Young Australian of the Year
- Jane Tate trophy
- Order of Australia Medal

## *Ella's Pink Lady*

This was the name Jessica gave to her boat, a 10.23 metre long Sparkman & Stephens. Before she had even begun her circumnavigation, disaster struck in the form of a collision with a 63 000 tonne bulk carrier ship. Luckily, Jessica was unhurt and *Ella's Pink Lady* suffered only a broken mast.



## Around the World in 210 Days

The following is a timeline of Jessica's circumnavigation of Earth.

- October 18, 2009 - Departed Sydney Harbour
- November 19, 2009 - Crossed the equator
- Christmas 2009 - Furthest point from land
- January 13, 2010 - Cape Horn, Chile
- January 25, 2010 - Halfway point
- February 15, 2010 - Crossed Prime Meridian
- February 24, 2010 - Cape Agulhas, S.Africa
- April 10, 2010 - Australian Waters
- April 12, 2010 - Cape Leeuwin, W.Australia
- May 3, 2010 - South East Cape, Tasmania
- May 15, 2010 - Arrive Sydney Harbour

Jessica says:

**"You don't have to be someone special to achieve something amazing. You've just got to have a dream, believe in it and work hard."**