



31 Round the World

Before you start

1 Describe the photo and then answer the questions.

- 1 Would you like to go sailing?
- 2 Where would you like to sail to?
- 3 Which things do you think the yachtswoman in the photo has done?

won a race, sailed round the world, become famous, received an award, come close to death, been on her own for a long time

2 Now read the article and check your guesses.



People Think I'm a Weirdo

Since sailing solo around the world in record time, she has become the nation's darling. Libby Brookes meets the young British yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur, 28.

Since her first solo round-the-world race in 2001, Ellen MacArthur has become famous. She only came second in that race but she sailed a great big boat round the world through force-10 storms.

For the last few weeks, MacArthur has been the centre of attention again. She has received the title of 'Dame Ellen' from the Queen and huge crowds have welcomed her back after her record-breaking solo voyage around the world. She completed the trip in 71 days, 14 hours and 18 minutes, beating Francis Joyon's record by 33 hours.

Has she had time to enjoy her success? 'No!' she replies. 'Of course you're pleased when you get an award but it's not just about you, it's about the team that helped me prepare for the race.'

MacArthur's first trip on the water was on her aunt's boat at the age of four. She has dreamt of the sea ever since then. 'I've always loved the sea and the sea has been a great inspiration to me.'

25 Was she scared of dying on her trip?

'You think about that later. I have come close to death but when it's happening to you, you don't think about falling off the mast. You think about holding onto it with every brain cell you've got.'

Does she feel proud because she has achieved so much?

30 'No, but I've learned a lot. I feel proud of my parents, and proud of my team. For years, a lot of people have helped me.

Has she ever felt lonely?

35 'I do like being on my own,' she says, 'but I'm not a solitary person. People think I'm a weirdo but I'm not that strange. I feel lucky. Since the age of 17, I have known exactly what I wanted to do. I've had that passion.'

3 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why has Ellen MacArthur become famous?
- 2 Has she ever felt afraid on her sailing trips?
- 3 Who is she proud of?
- 4 Why do some people think she is strange?
- 5 Why do you think she has received so much attention from the media?
- 6 Why does she feel lucky?