

 Lesson 1

# I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER

*from* MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING



© 1997 TRISTAR PICTURES, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

## PRE-READING

► **Answer the following questions. Circle the letter of your answers, and compare your answers with those of other students.**

1. Do you every pray?
  - a. Never
  - b. Seldom
  - c. Sometimes
  - d. Often
2. What do you pray for?
  - a. To give thanks
  - b. To ask for help
  - c. To wish for a dream to come true
  - d. To show love
3. Who do you pray for?
  - a. yourself
  - b. your family
  - c. your friends
  - d. others

## READING

► **Read the following passage. Then discuss with other students your reactions and/or what you have learned from it.**

In 1999, from mid-May through June, a poll was conducted among 1,172 children aged between six and 14 in 25 cities in the United States. The results of this TIME/Nickelodeon poll shows that 95% of the children surveyed believe in God and eight out of 10 pray regularly. Another survey conducted by Vankelovich Partners for Lutheran Brotherhood reveals the fact that nine out of 10 adults say they pray. Asked what they most often pray for, 98% of the polled said they pray for their own families. 81% said that they pray for world's children, followed by 77% for world peace and 69% for their co-workers. Prayers are part of the daily life of many people in the United States.

10 The song " I Say a Little Prayer " was featured in the 1996 hit movie *My Best Friend's Wedding*. The original song was sung by Dionne Warwick, who is probably better known among young people today as Whitney Houston's aunt. During the past three and a half decades, Dionne Warwick has established herself as a musical hitmaker on an international scale. She was the first black female pop and soul singer to receive a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Female Performance. To celebrate her 35th year as a performing artist, a collection of her hit songs from the past, " Dionne Sings Dionne, " was released 15 in 1998. In selecting the music for her album, Dionne Warwick asked her friends and people in the music industry to list their favorite tunes she had recorded. The result was not too surprising; many people chose such hit songs 20 as " I Say a Little Prayer " and " Anyone Who Had a Heart. " Dionne said that she was thrilled to be able to reintroduce these songs to her audiences as well as present them to many others for the first time.

In addition to her career as an artist, Dionne Warwick has focused her efforts 25 on leading the music industry in the fight against AIDS. Her other Grammy-winning single, " That's What Friends Are For, " performed with Stevie Wonder, Elton John, and Gladys Knight, raised millions of dollars for AIDS research. Dionne was also one of the key participants in the all-star charity single " We Are The World " written to help save the victims of famine in Ethiopia. Having 30 served as the US Ambassador for Health during the 1980's, she continues to work as a socially conscious citizen. Even with her successful life full of accomplishments, Dionne Warwick still prays for us and the world to change for the better.