



## Sample Paper 12

Score for Voice \_\_\_\_\_

### The Little Black Dress

Coco Chanel, the legendary fashion designer, once said, “A girl should be two things: classy and fabulous.” Though she died in 1971, anyone who pays attention to high-fashion knows that Coco Chanel’s influential words and designs changed the fashion industry forever. Her classic Chanel No. 5 perfume, first introduced in 1924, continues to sell even today, at the rate of one bottle every 30 seconds. Purses and handbags bearing the distinctive “CC” logo are sold in shops and boutiques around the world. But it is the “little black dress” for which she is most famous. Coco’s simple black dress design revolutionized fashion.

If you have ever watched one of the reality shows about fashion designers, you know that high fashion is often about wild ideas, taking chances, and starting trends. Today, people often interpret that to mean glitz and glamour, wild colors, feathers, unusual fabrics like ostrich skin, and sequins or jewels. Chanel had a different vision altogether. But make no mistake: in 1926, Chanel’s black dress seemed wild and chancy.

At that time, women’s dresses were long and layered, and covered just about everything. Black was not a color for parties or social events. Women wore black to mourn or attend funerals. Chanel’s design crashed headlong through that tradition. Her dress was chic and elegant, a simple, form-fitting sleeveless black sheath, cut barely above the knee. Arms and legs showing! How scandalous! Women loved it—and bought it. In fact, they bought millions.



This little black dress, with a few variations, is still the ultimate in high fashion, and will be forever. Add a few accessories, jewelry and shoes, and a woman can wear this dress almost anywhere fashion matters. Coco Chanel's little black dress has become the classy, fabulous answer for women faced with the question, "What should I wear?"

### Sources

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