

The supermodel with vitiligo



Chantelle Brown-Young was not born with vitiligo, but it has made her famous. She is the first supermodel with the skin condition, which causes areas of skin to lose their colour.

Chantelle was born in Toronto, Canada. At the age of four she started to develop patches of white skin and was diagnosed with vitiligo. No one really knows why one per cent of people have this skin condition, and there is no real cure.

At school, Chantelle was bullied for being different. The other kids often called her a ‘cow’, because of the way her skin looked. She moved school several times and finally left school at 16.

From now on, she decided, she would be proud of her skin.

She posted photos of herself on Facebook and was ‘spotted’ by a Canadian YouTube star, Shannon Boodram, who asked her to be in a music video. It was while she was doing that that her really ‘big break’ happened. Tyra Banks asked her to be on America’s Next Top Model.

She didn’t win, but she had become famous. Her professional name now is Winnie Harlow, and she has nearly three million followers on Instagram.

Little by little, she is changing people’s ideas about what beauty is.

www.teachingenglish.org.uk

audio: www.anglais.alanmattingly.eu/cours_2018-19/vitiligo_model.mp3