

BY SHANNA SILVA

LEWIS HAMILTON

WORLD CHAMPION RACE CAR DRIVER





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In June 2018, Lewis Hamilton earned the top spot in the qualifying rounds of the Grand Prix in France.

CHAPTER 1

Who Is Lewis Hamilton?

As a teen, Lewis Hamilton saw an ugly event at his school in England. He would be accused of taking part in it.

A classmate had been beaten. Six boys were involved. The victim had broken fingers and bruising. His arm was hurt too.

Hamilton was 16. He was called to the principal's office. The young man was accused of being part of the assault. But that was false. Days later, the principal said he had proof. He claimed Hamilton had kicked the victim. Lewis Hamilton was **expelled**.

This was devastating to Hamilton. He struggled in school. Classes were hard for him. Plus, he was often bullied for being Black. But getting expelled could ruin his future. Hamilton had been racing go-karts. His dream was to be a race car driver. That career might be over for him now before it had really started.

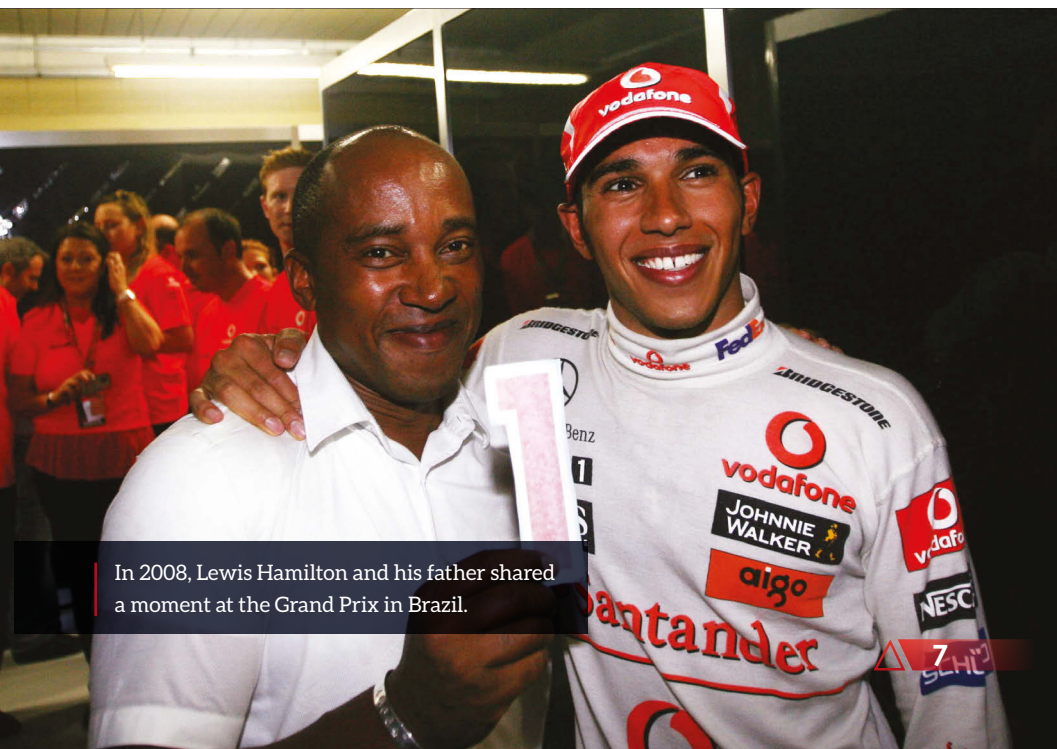
Hamilton's father fought to clear his son's name. Months later, the truth came out. One of the six bullies had the same initials as Hamilton. Records of the incident had been changed so that Hamilton would be blamed.

In time, he was found innocent. The school cleared his record. Hamilton was readmitted. But he never returned there.

The incident made Hamilton's **resolve** stronger. He continued chasing his dream. Nothing was going to stop him.



| As a teen, Hamilton prepared for a go-kart race in 2000.



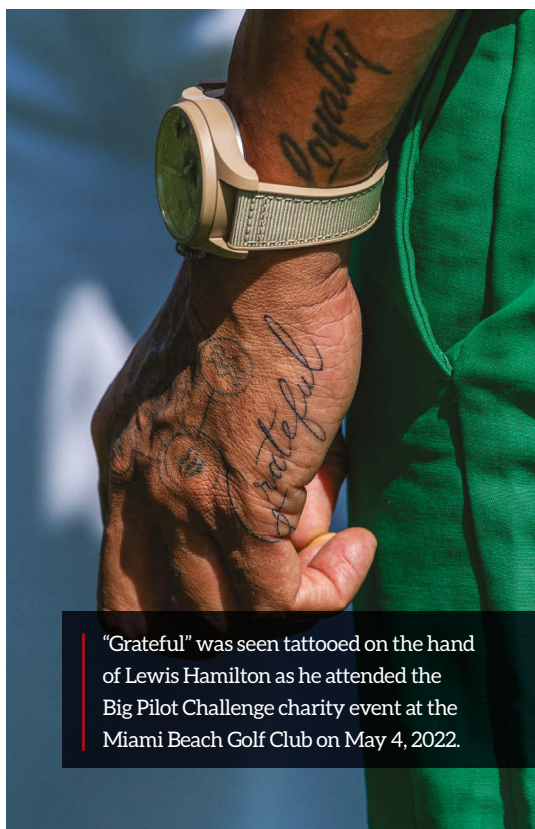
| In 2008, Lewis Hamilton and his father shared a moment at the Grand Prix in Brazil.



In June 2007, Hamilton celebrated after winning the Grand Prix in Canada. It was his first Grand Prix victory.



Hamilton attended the Dior launch of its fall 2023 menswear collection in Egypt.



"Grateful" was seen tattooed on the hand of Lewis Hamilton as he attended the Big Pilot Challenge charity event at the Miami Beach Golf Club on May 4, 2022.

Years later, that dream came true. In 2007, Hamilton became the first Black Formula One (F1) driver. F1 is a popular sport. It's the highest level of international racing. This is for single-seat cars with open wheels and open **cockpits**.

By 2020, Hamilton had won seven World Championships. No one had won more. In 2021, he became the first F1 driver to win 100 races. He's one of the most successful F1 drivers. Hamilton was worth over \$280 million in 2022.

As a celebrity, Hamilton uses his fame to promote causes important to him. He works to make F1 more **inclusive** to people of color. His efforts have led to change.

Hamilton also is a **trendsetter**. He wears designer clothes and jewelry. His many tattoos display words and pictures that inspire him.

Lewis Hamilton has faced many hurdles in his life. Some people said he'd never be successful. He has proved them wrong.



LEWIS HAMILTON

As a child, Lewis Hamilton showed passion and skill for racing. Despite facing racism and other challenges, he wouldn't let anything stand in the way of his dream of becoming a Formula One driver. Several World Championships later, he continues to live his dream and works to pave the way for more diversity in the sport and inclusivity in life.

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