Do you know the idiom ‘dark horse’?
Do you know what ‘dark horse’ means?

When we say something or someone is a ‘dark horse’ we mean that their potential was hidden and not well known, or perhaps even deliberately kept a secret for a reason.
Origins: the story

This phrase originated in the world of horse racing to refer to a horse whose potential wasn’t obvious or revealed.

If an unexpected horse won a race, it would be referred to as a dark horse, not because of its colouring, but because people had been kept ‘in the dark’ about its potential.

The word dark refers to the fact that the trainer or owner had kept the potential of the horse a secret.

Later this phrase was used in politics and other areas to refer to someone who wasn’t well known.
Examples

1. I didn’t realise Jo could sing like that! What a dark horse!

2. Stacey is a dark horse – did you know she has had two books published in the last two years?
Consider

• When have you, or someone you know, been seen as a dark horse?

• How did this affect the situation?

• When might it be useful to be a dark horse?
• Are there any times that we shouldn’t let ourselves be seen as a dark horse?