

Sports Stars with Heart

Introduction

This teacher's guide helps students become familiar with the characteristics of a biography while addressing the question: *What makes a good role model?* The title of this series, *Sports Stars with Heart*, conveys the idea that these athletes are role models not only for their athletic ability and good sportsmanship but also because they give back to the community. Students will explore this theme as they read about the lives of these athletes.

National Standards

This series supports Language Arts, Health and Physical Education curriculum. Go to www.enslowclassroom.com and click on the Curriculum Correlations tab. Click on your state, grade level, and curriculum standard to display how any book in this series backs up your state's specific curriculum standard.

Classroom Activities

Activities for teaching the five curriculum areas: Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the Arts can be found in this teacher's guide. Students will learn about the characteristics of biography and examine the traits of role models. They will also learn how Social Studies, Science and Math concepts are related to basketball and other information found in the book.

Guided Reading Level: W

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Sports Stars with Heart Teacher's Guide for
Tim Duncan: Champion On and Off the Court.

Students look up to professional athletes as role models. This biography of basketball player Tim Duncan focuses on the theme that he is an inspiring person both on and off the court. Duncan consistently demonstrates his belief in the importance of being a team player, having a strong work ethic and giving back to the community. This theme can be identified throughout the book as we read about his childhood and rise to fame as a basketball star.

Share the information below with your students in preparation for reading *Tim Duncan: Champion On and Off the Court.*

What is a biography?

A biography is the written story of a person's life. It is often written about someone famous who has made an important contribution to society. Authors must research the person they are writing about by conducting interviews and reading other sources (see Chapter Notes). Authors collect this information so they can include the important facts that describe what this person is like. Characteristics of this genre may include: Place of birth and death; Information about family and upbringing; Influences; Significant events, such as problems or obstacles they overcame and Goals and accomplishments.

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More information about writing biographies can be found at this Web site:
<www.factmonster.com/homework/wsbiography.html

Exploring theme: What makes a good role model?

A role model is a person others try to be like because they admire certain traits or qualities of that person. Role models set positive examples through their speech, behavior and actions and can often be very influential to children. Role models may be famous, such as athletes and actors, or they may be people we encounter every day, such as parents and teachers. Traits of a role model may include being: Courageous; Respectful; Hard working; Compassionate; Modest; Helpful or Generous.

Further ideas for teaching about role models can be found at this Web site:
www.crayola.com/lesson-plans/detail/footsteps-to-success!-role-models-to-follow-lesson-plan/

Basketball Terms

This book contains many terms used in basketball. These terms can be used as a pre-reading activity to elicit prior knowledge or to provide background knowledge. Definitions for these terms can be found in the glossary of the book and at this Web site:
www.ultimate-youth-basketball-guide.com/basketball-terms.html

The Five Curriculum Activities

SAFETY WARNING:

Before any activity, make sure your students do not have any allergies to items that you might use. Never use anything which is sharp or may cut a student. Do not use anything too hot or cold which might injure any student. Always have an adult supervise all activities to ensure the safety of your students and provide an appropriate setting, such as a gym or outdoor space, for physical activities.

Reading/Language Arts activity:

Review the characteristics of biographies listed in the Teacher's Guide and check for student comprehension. Help students to scan the text to find information or examples that address each characteristic. Remind students to think about Tim Duncan's basketball successes as well as his charitable giving.

Math activity:

In sports, decimals and percents are often used to show how often something occurs for a player. For example, if a player plays in 76 out of 100 games, he played in .76 or 76% of the games. Demonstrate how to convert decimals to percents either by dividing by 100 or moving the decimal point two places to the right. Ask students to choose a decimal from the chart on page 59 and convert it to a percent.

Science activity:

While he was growing up in the Virgin Islands, Tim Duncan and his family survived a hurricane. A hurricane is a large storm with strong winds and usually develops over warm ocean waters. For a hurricane to form winds must blow into each other. Using a world map, help students locate the Virgin Islands. Discuss with students why a hurricane might be more likely to develop near an island. Responses may include: near water, breezes and winds are usually found near water, warm oceans are found in that part of the world.

Social Studies activity:

Using a topographic or physical map, ask students to locate the three places where Tim Duncan has lived: St. Croix, Virgin Islands, Winston-Salem, NC, and San Antonio, TX. Have students compare and contrast geographical features. Based on these features, discuss with students what they think the climate and population sizes might be for these areas.

Arts activity:

The Tim Duncan Foundation rewards students who "show outstanding character traits and also make good choices" (p. 77). Have students brainstorm and define what these character traits might be. Students should choose one trait and create a collage of images to illustrate the word they chose.

Tim Duncan is admired for the traits he brings to his basketball playing and his charity work. Review Tim Duncan's basketball career achievements found on pages 114-115 of the book. Then, reread Chapter 8 and create a list of the achievements he has made in his charity work.

Charity work achievements: _____

Write a short paragraph describing the traits of Tim Duncan based on his basketball career and his charity work.

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