

## 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](http://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 biographies and examine the traits of role models. They will also learn how Science and Math concepts are related to basketball.

### Guided Reading Level: V

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## **Sports Stars with Heart**

Teacher's Guide for *Kevin Garnett: All-Star On and Off the Court*.

Students look up to professional athletes as role models. This biography of basketball player Kevin Garnett focuses on the theme that he is an inspiring person both on and off the court. Garnett's perseverance, in the face of personal and professional challenges, demonstrates his commitment to improving himself and helping others. This theme can be identified throughout the book as we follow his story from a young boy to an accomplished basketball star.

Share the information below with your students in preparation for reading *Kevin Garnett: All-Star 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](http://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/](http://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](http://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:**

Generate a list of traits that role models have, either by using the list from the Teacher's Guide or by brainstorming with students. Ask students if they think Kevin Garnett or someone else they know has these traits. Have the students identify and write down supporting details from the book or their personal experiences that support each trait.

### **Math activity:**

In sports, averages are often used to show a player's or team's performance during a season or over many years. Explain that in math an average is called a mean and can be found by adding a group of numbers and dividing the sum by the number of numbers. Use the charts on page 92 or 101 to demonstrate how to find the mean for one of the columns. Have students choose a column and find the mean for it.

### **Science activity:**

Write down and define the following terms aloud:

potential energy: energy that is stored in an object

kinetic energy: energy in motion

Hold out a basketball in both hands and then drop it. Ask students if they can identify where potential energy (holding the ball) and kinetic energy (dropping the ball) occurred in that process. Help students think of other examples of potential and kinetic energy.

### **Social Studies activity:**

Draw a timeline on the board or a piece of paper. A timeline can help to place events in the order in which they happened, also known as chronological order. Ask students why biographies are often written in chronological order. Have students identify the most important events in Kevin Garnett's life and fill them in on the timeline. (If needed, review the characteristics of biographies.) Afterwards, discuss why each event was chosen and if it was placed in the correct order.

### **Arts activity:**

A mascot is a person or animal that is often thought to bring good luck to a team. Discuss what qualities a mascot might have and provide examples of other mascots if possible. Have students design and draw a new mascot for the Timberwolves, the team that Kevin Garnett played with for many years.

A biography is a true story that tells about the most important events of someone else's life. Pick a person from history and pretend to ask the questions below. Put your answers together into a paragraph. See if anyone can guess who your person is after reading your paragraph.

Interview questions:

What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_

Where and when were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are your family members? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where have you lived? ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

What has been the most significant incident in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What made you famous? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use the back of this sheet of paper to write your short paragraph about the person from history you chose.

