

Hot Celebrity Biographies

Introduction

Young adults enjoy reading about fictional characters and real people who are about their age or a little older. They like to make comparisons between that person's life and their own, and get ideas about how to make decisions as they grow to adulthood.

National Standards

This series supports Language Arts, Arts Education, Career/Vocational 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 practice vocabulary words found in the book and will enjoy working on cross-curricular activities related to the celebrity featured in the biography.

Guided Reading Level: S

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Hot Celebrity Biographies Teacher's Guide
for
SHAUN WHITE: SNOW AND SKATEBOARD CHAMPION

Young adults enjoy reading about fictional characters and real people who are about their age or a little older. They like to make comparisons between that person's life and their own, and get ideas about how to make decisions as they grow to adulthood. Using bright, engaging color photographs, interesting text, and quotes from the subject, this book chronicles the life of Shaun White, a young star of the extreme sports world. His pleasant personality and his motivation to do well have propelled him to great heights in snowboarding and skateboarding and have increased the public's interest and knowledge of these two extreme sports.

Some nicknames are fun and others are annoying. Shaun White was called "Future Boy" because of his outstanding athletic abilities that were brought out at a young age. He was thought to be the future of extreme sports. He did not like this nickname. He has had other nicknames too: "The Egg," "Senor Blanco," and "The Flying Tomato." He has admitted that he has not liked any of these nicknames. Ask the students what they think of nicknames. What names have they been called? How can nicknames be painful? Were Shaun White's nicknames intended to bother him? What makes you say that?

Time Line

Review the timeline on page 44 and 45 with the students. Invite the students to tell how old he is at each of these important milestones in his life. Which event after 1986 is he probably most proud of? What makes you say that?

Glossary

Review the glossary terms on page 47. Encourage the students to turn to the glossary as they encounter these words in the text. Ask the students to incorporate these words into their vocabulary as much as they are able.

To help the students use and learn the new words in the glossary, encourage them to do one or more of the following vocabulary-building activities:

- *Make a crossword puzzle.* Provide graph paper for students to plan out their puzzle. As time permits, have students exchange their puzzles with a partner.
- *Make a word search.* On graph paper, students can hide words across, up and down, and diagonally.
- *Make connections.* Have the students list each word and provide some connections to prior knowledge (e.g., extreme sports. I know that "extreme" means that something is going hard, so I can tell that "extreme sports" are sports that are probably more difficult than other sports).
- *Sort the words.* Have students find commonalities among the words (multiple meaning words, compound words, words pronounced differently than they look) and sort them accordingly. Challenge the students to find just two or just three categories to sort into.
- *Write questions about the word.* Have the students hint at the word with three questions. Have partners guess which word is being described.

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 that 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

On page 9, the author includes this dialogue from Shaun White, who had won a gold medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy:

“It hits you the next day,” he said. “You’re like, ‘Wow, did that seriously just happen? I got a gold medal. I guess I’m an athlete now.’”

Why do you think the author included these words from Shaun White instead of just mentioning that he couldn’t believe that he had won? Write a paragraph discussing how and why a quote from the subject can enhance writing, and why you think writers use them rather than just summarizing the words.

Math Activity

Solve this math problem:

The popularity of extreme sports has grown in recent years, thanks in some part to Shaun White’s success. A skateboarding event in Anytown, Virginia has grown in popularity each year since 2007. It began with 250 people watching the contest. In 2008, the audience grew by 70%. It grew by 40% each of the next two years. What was the size of the viewing audience in 2010?

Science Activity

The Winter Olympics are held in an area that is going to be cold and have natural snow. Sometimes the Olympic venue has to create snow when there is not enough. Research how snow is made at ski resorts and other venues and write a paragraph to explain the process.

Social Studies Activity

Shaun White competed in and won the Winter X Games in 2001. These games showcase extreme sports. Research to find out more about the X Games. Other than snowboarding, what sports are considered to be “extreme” winter sports? List and tell something about each one. Which sport, if any, would you most like to try? Why have you chosen that sport?

Arts Activity

Shaun White has completed several 1260 runs in competition. Draw a diagram to show someone new to the sport exactly what the snowboarder needs to do to achieve this run. Use arrows to how he begins and how he spins and lands.

Math Answer:

Year	Increase %		Total
2007			250
2008	70%	$250 \times 70\% = 175$	$250 + 175 = 425$
2009	40%	$425 \times 40\% = 170$	$425 + 170 = 595$
2010	40%	$595 \times 40\% = 238$	$595 + 238 = 833$

Possible Answers for Worksheet: 1. go forward, progress; 2. perfect; 3. review, judge; 4. broke, shattered; 5. strong; 6. annoying; 7. ordinary, normal; 8. idol; 9. steadiness, regularity; 10. changeover; 11. used to; 12. sight, ability to see

Identifying Synonyms

Read each sentence. Think of a synonym, a word or phrase that means about the same thing, for the underlined word. Write that word on the line. Refer to the book page if you need word-meaning clues from the text.

1. [page 5] All White had to do was land without falling to advance to the next round.

2. [page 8] Every landing was soft and flawless.

3. [page 14] Shaun has this knack of seeing things beforehand, assessing them, and making the right choice.

4. [page 16] Shaun broke both his hand and foot and even fractured his skull.

5. [page 17] Whatever the competition, White had an intense desire to win.

6. [page 18] He didn't want the other athletes to think of him as just a pesky kid with potential.

7. [page 19] Extreme sports are fast-paced sports outside the mainstream.

8. [page 21] Shaun is going to be the next icon of extreme sports.

9. [page 23] All he needed was consistency.

10. [page 24] Though he was not shocked at his success, others marveled at his easy transition from snowboarding to skateboarding.

11. [page 24] He had become accustomed to juggling snowboarding and skateboarding along with his personal life and schoolwork.

12. [page 40] That day, strong winds were making landings difficult, and a heavy snowstorm limited visibility in the superpipe.

Shaun White