

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 biographies and examine the traits of role models. They will also learn how Social Studies, Science and Math concepts are related to baseball and other information found in the book.

Guided Reading Level: V

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Where to Find More Information About Titles in this Series:

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Sports Stars with Heart

Teacher's Guide for *Derek Jeter: Captain On and Off the Field*.

Students look up to professional athletes as role models. This biography of baseball player Derek Jeter focuses on the theme that he is an inspiring person both on and off the field. Jeter followed his dream of becoming a professional baseball player without losing sight of what mattered most to him. This theme can be identified throughout the book as we read about his family's support for his baseball career and his desire to start a foundation to help kids.

Share the information below with your students in preparation for reading *Derek Jeter: Captain On and Off the Field*.

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/>

Baseball Terms

This book contains many terms used in baseball. 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:

<<http://www.ducksters.com/sports/baseballglossary.php>>

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 information about biographies found in the Teacher's Guide. Point out that in preparation for writing a biography, authors research information using many different types of sources. Direct students to look at the Chapter Notes on pages 116-119. Help students identify the different types of sources used (Web sites, newspaper and magazines articles, books, etc.). Have students choose a chapter, locate the citations in it, and use the Chapter Notes to determine what source was used for that citation.

Math activity:

Review the section "How to Figure a Batting Average" on page 11. Then, direct students to look at the Career Statistics Chart on pages 112-113. Using the information they learned on page 11, help students determine how the decimals for the Averages (AVG) column were computed. Have students check each average by dividing hits (H) by at-bats (AB). For example, the .250 average for the first row was obtained by dividing 12 by 48.

Science activity:

Baseball pitchers are famous for throwing different pitches, such as curveballs and fastballs. Pitchers affect the way a ball is thrown by changing different variables. Inform students that a variable is something that can be changed and when conducting a science experiment, one variable at a time is changed and the effects are observed. Help students brainstorm variables that pitchers may change to throw different pitches, for example, wrist, arm, or finger positions. Have students practice throwing a ball and record what happens when they change variables.

Social Studies activity:

Share information about Jackie Robinson by reading this short biography at www.wc.pdx.edu/jackierobinson/jackie.html.

Discuss the effect that Jackie Robinson had on professional baseball and help students make connections between the lives of Jackie Robinson and Derek Jeter.

Arts activity:

Derek Jeter has received many awards for his skills as a baseball player and for his charity work. Look at pages 37 and 71 to see some of the awards he has been given. Ask students to design an award or trophy that could be given to a role model. Review role model traits found in the Teacher's Guide and discuss with students how their award would reflect those traits. What would be the name of the award? What would it look like?

Authors include both facts and opinions when writing a biography. Read the definitions and examples below to understand the difference between fact and opinion.

Fact: Something known to be true or real.

Example: Halloween is held on October 31 every year.

Opinion: An individual's personal feelings about a subject or idea.

Example: Scary costumes are better than funny costumes.

Write fact or opinion next to the sentences below.

In 1992 Derek Jeter was named High School Player of the Year. _____

Baseball is the most interesting sport on television today. _____

It is more important to donate money to charities than to volunteer. _____

Watching sports on television is exciting. _____

The ticket prices for sports events are too expensive. _____

Derek Dieter's foundation has programs in Michigan, New York and Florida. _____

Derek Jeter received good grades when he was a student. _____

Derek Jeter is the best player on the Yankees. _____

Skim through the biography of Derek Jeter. Identify two facts and two opinions from the book.

Fact: _____

Fact: _____

Opinion: _____

Opinion: _____
