

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 football and other information found in the book.

Guided Reading Level: W

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Sports Stars with Heart

Teacher's Guide for *Donovan McNabb: Leader On and Off the Field*

Students look up to professional athletes as role models. This biography of football player Donovan McNabb focuses on the theme that he is an inspiring person both on and off the field. McNabb shows how laughter and good humor has helped him tackle his problems. This theme can be identified throughout the book as we read about his close ties with his family and his efforts to support causes close to his heart.

Share the information below with your students in preparation for reading *Donovan McNabb: Leader 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. very. 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/>

Football Terms

This book contains many terms used in football. 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.firstbasesports.com/football_glossary.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:

Figurative language is when words do not mean exactly what they say. It is a method used by writers to express ideas in an interesting and descriptive way. Share some of the figurative language used in the book and see if students can identify other examples.

Examples:

*That year, Manning was **thrown to the wolves**, leading the league in interceptions. (p.47)*

*“Anything you could show him to help him, he would **soak up and be thirsty** for more.” (p. 27)*

*“And after that let’s **buckle down** and have some fun.” (p. 68)*

Math activity:

Review the 1999 Draft Poll found on page 45. Check for comprehension by asking students who people thought would have the most and least successful NFL careers. Tell students that data can be presented in different ways. Help students to create pie or bar charts to represent the percentages. Discuss how changing the visual presentation is a more or less effective way of communicating the data.

Science activity:

Write down and read aloud the following definition: Gravity: the attraction between two masses. Discuss with students how gravity is responsible for bringing masses together. For example, when you drop a ball it falls to the ground. The ball and the Earth are attracted to each other. How does gravity affect a football when it is thrown? Since the moon has less gravity than the Earth what would happen if you threw a football on the moon?

Social Studies activity:

Write down and read aloud the following definitions:

Primary source: original documents that are written by someone who experienced the event

Secondary source: interpretations or an analysis of a primary source

Ask students whether they think a biography is a primary or secondary source. What about an autobiography? Review the Chapter Notes with students and try to identify whether each source is primary or secondary.

Arts activity:

Biographies often contain a photo or sketch of the person being written about. These images usually reflect something about the person in it. Ask students to look through the photos in the book and choose one that reflects traits or actions associated with Donovan McNabb. Students should use it as the basis for a drawing and discuss why they chose that image.

Reread the section “Comeback Kid” on pages 102-103. It lists some of McNabb’s most important victories. Summarize each one and place them in correct chronological order on the timeline below. The first one has been done for you.

