

Hot Celebrity Biographies

Introduction

This teacher's guide helps teach young adults about goal setting and perseverance. By highlighting the ways the subject worked toward his ultimate goal and his similarities to the book's target audience, students should surmise that all goals are worth working toward.

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: T

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40 Industrial Road, Box 398
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Hot Celebrity Biographies Teacher's Guide
for
KANYE WEST: HIP-HOP STAR

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 Kanye West, a musical superstar who uses his music to do great things. Although he was a bit defiant and sometimes a difficult child growing up, strong positive role models greatly influenced the young Kanye and helped him see the path to greatness.

Ask the students to tell what a role model is and why it can be important to have one. Discuss how strong role models can contribute to a person's success. Have the students name positive role models in different careers: male and female actors, sports figures, musicians, and others. Discuss the qualities about each of these people that make them a positive influence on others.

Ask the students how Kanye West is a role model. What is it about his life that makes him a positive influence on younger musicians?

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. Have the students add a few sentences to explain each one based on what they read in the text.

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.* Provide graph paper for students to 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., purification. I see the word "purify" here so this is probably a way to make something pure).
- *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.

Kanye West

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

One of Kanye West's most known lyrics are from his song "Stronger." Here he repeats the words first spoken by a philosopher: "What doesn't kill me makes me stronger." What do those words mean to you? Write a paragraph telling how you do or do not relate to that quotation.

Math Activity

Solve this math problem:

A certain singer's hit single is being sold online for \$.99 for six weeks. He sells 120,000 copies of the song. After that, the price goes up to \$1.25. How many more copies of the song will have to sell for the singer to make \$200,000 from sales of the single?

Science Activity

Kanye West and his father Ray support the United Nations World Water Day. They opened a café that sells purified water and water purification equipment. Research to find answers to these questions:

What does it mean to purify water?

How is purified water different from other types of water?

In what countries is clean water a problem?

Write an essay detailing your findings.

Social Studies Activity

Kanye West's name is taken from the Swahili language. What is Swahili? Is the language still spoken anywhere in the world? Research the Swahili language and write down five or more facts about it. Use those facts to write a short essay describing the language and what you learned about it.

Arts Activity

Kanye West's mother was a huge influence on his life. He wrote the song "Hey Mama" to honor her. In the song, he thanks her for the wonderful things she did for him (see pages 19 to 22). The song meant a lot to both him and his mother. Think of an adult family member who has had an influence on your life. Write down qualities about him or her that you consider important. Write a song or poem that mentions some of those qualities.

Math Answer:

$$.99 \times 120,000 = 118,800$$

$$200,000 - 118,800 = 81,200$$

$$81,200 / 1.25 = 64,960 \text{ more copies}$$

Possible Answers for Worksheet: 2. Kanye was a sensitive and loving son. 3. Kanye was bossy. He wanted to be in charge. 4. His parents took education seriously. 5. He loved his mother. 6. His mother supported his music. 7. Her death was a shock. It hit Kanye hard. 8. He wanted to honor his mother. 9. He has not had an easy rise. 10. He writes his lyrics carefully. 11. He wants to give something back.

Making Inferences

Read each sentence below. Think about what it says. Then write on the line something you can logically conclude or deduce from the sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. He [his dad] also photographed every visitor who came to see baby Kanye.

He wanted to have a record of everything that happened to his son.

2. If she [his mom] was sad, Kanye wanted to make her feel better.

3. Kanye insisted that the ducks do what he said.

4. As he got older, Kanye could only watch television once he finished his homework.

5. Kanye wrote the song “Hey Mama” to honor his mother, Donda.

6. After Kanye received his first keyboard, his mother allowed him to set up a music studio in his bedroom.

7. Donda West died suddenly on November 10, 2007.

8. He performed with the word “mama” shaved in his hair.

9. Kanye has risen above many obstacles.

10. He hopes that his lyrics will show them that someone hears their pain.

11. He has set up a charitable foundation.

Kanye West

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