

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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Titles in this series:	Library Edition ISBN:	Paperback Edition ISBN:
Albert Pujols	978-0-7660-2866-1	978-0-7660-3599-7
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Sports Stars with Heart

Teacher's Guide for *Albert Pujols, MVP On and Off the Field*.

Many students look up to professional athletes as role models. This biography of baseball player Albert Pujols focuses on the theme that he is an inspiring person both on and off the field. Pujols remains committed to his strong beliefs in faith and family as he pursues a career in baseball. This theme can be identified throughout the book as we read about his early beginnings in the Dominican Republic, his move to the United States, and how he helps causes close to his heart.

Share the information below with your students in preparation for reading *Albert Pujols, MVP 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/>

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:

Read “Going Once, Going Twice...Sold” on page 96. Demonstrate how to identify the main idea by thinking aloud about the following:

- What is the topic? (Albert Pujols)
- What is the most important idea about the topic? (Pujols believes that giving money to worthwhile causes is the most important part of attending charity auctions.)
- Are there details that support this idea? (Pujols has given away the items he has won.)

Have students read the section “A Hitter with a Heart” on page 102 and practice identifying the main idea.

Math activity:

Review the Career Statistics Chart on pages 112-113. Using graph paper, demonstrate how to graph information found on the chart. Label the x-axis “Years” and fill in the years 2001-2008 at equal intervals along this axis. Label the y-axis “Strikeouts” and fill in this axis with numbers 1-10 at equal intervals. Show students how to plot and connect points on the graph and discuss what can be observed from the data on the graph.

Science activity:

A baseball bat is a type of lever. Share information with students about the three types of levers. Information about levers can be found here:

<www.enchantedlearning.com/physics/machines/Levers.shtml>

Write on the board and define aloud the following terms: Fulcrum: a fixed point; Load: Weight on one arm of the lever; Effort: Force applied to move the other arm of the lever; Equilibrium: balance when the load and effort are equal.

Encourage students to think aloud and brainstorm in order to determine that a baseball bat is a Type 3 lever.

Social Studies activity:

Ask students to read this short biography of Babe Ruth at <www.biography.com/articles/Babe-Ruth-192832>. Using a Venn Diagram, have students compare and contrast the lives of Babe Ruth and Albert Pujols. Discuss what they had in common and what their differences are. Venn diagrams can be found at: <www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/venn.pdf>

Arts activity: Albert Pujols was featured on a cereal box because he is a positive role model. Discuss with students how he demonstrates the traits of a role model. Have students create their own cereal box that features someone they feel is a role model. Ask students why they chose their role model.

Nonfiction books contain different sections to help readers locate specific information in the book. Read the descriptions of the different sections found in the book *Albert Pujols, MVP On and Off the Field*. to help you answer the questions below.

Contents: lists the chapter titles and pages

Chapter Notes: provides information about the references or sources of information the author used to research the book

Glossary: definitions for special words found in the book

For More Information: contains resources that can used to research the subject of the book

Index: alphabetically lists topics found in the book and the pages where the topics can be located

On what pages could more information about Babe Ruth be found?

Which chapter would most likely contain information about Albert Pujols' childhood?

Which section would provide a definition for the term *sweep*?

What magazine did the author use to help him research information for Chapter 2?

If you wanted to find out more about the Pujols Family Foundation where could you look?

What does the term *pitching rotation* mean?
