

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 *America Ferrera: Latina Superstar*

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 America Ferrera, Latina superstar. Her television and movie roles seem true to her personality, and have cast her as a fun, engaging young woman whom anyone would want to know. She is a positive role model for Latinas and all young women.

America Ferrera graduated from the University of Southern California with a double major – theater and international relations. She chose to go to college despite already having a successful career in television and movies and all indications pointing to her continued success in Hollywood.

Ask the students to suggest reasons she opted for a college education. Discuss together whether this was a wise decision for America and reasons why or why not. What would they have done on her situation?

Time Line

Review the timeline on page 44 and 45 with the students. Invite the students to tell how old America is at each of these important milestones in her life. Then have the students research to find out what was happening in her family's native country of Honduras in those years.

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 as they strive to incorporate the words into their vocabulary (e.g., heroine. This word has the word hero in it so I think it is probably related to that word).
- *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 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

America Ferrera said that she felt different from other kids as she was growing up. Review page 39 for her specific references to this. Did you ever feel different from other kids when you were growing up? Why or why not? Write an imaginary letter to America, discussing how her feelings growing up were similar or different from yours.

Math Activity

America Ferrera's rehearsal schedule for the show *Ugly Betty* sometimes had her working twelve hours a day (see page 27). Think about the other activities she would need to squeeze into her day. Draw a circle graph (sometimes called a pie chart). Show how she probably filled up the 24-hours of a typical day during this filming time.

Science Activity

America Ferrera drives a hybrid car. Use the two websites below to learn what you can about hybrid cars. Then tell whether you believe a hybrid would be a good choice for your family's next car. Provide reasons it would or would not be the car for your family.

<<http://www.edmunds.com/advice/hybridcars/articles/103708/article.html> >

<<http://www.howstuffworks.com/hybrid-car.htm>>

Social Studies Activity

America Ferrera was born in the United States, but her family emigrated from the Central American country of Honduras. Research this country to find out about its population, its form of government, its location, and probable reasons the Ferreras left the country and moved to the United States in the early 1980s. Discuss with a partner whether America would have been as successful as she is now if she and her family had stayed in Honduras.

Arts Activity

When she won her 2007 Golden Globe award, America Ferrera especially thanked her mother. She credited her mother with helping America accomplish everything she has in life. Review what America said about her mother at this awards ceremony (page 37). Then think about an award or honor you may someday receive. What prize would it be? Now think of yourself at the awards ceremony. Who would you thank? Who would have been most helpful in your journey toward winning that honor?

Mention the name of the award you would hope to someday win. Then write a short acceptance speech, mentioning that important person and how he or she was so helpful.

Fact and Opinion

Facts are true statements that can be proven. Opinions are what a person thinks about a subject:

FACT: America Ferrera is of Latina heritage.

OPINION: America Ferrera is the best actress of her age group.

Read each statement below. If it is a fact, write FACT on the line. If it is an opinion, write OPINION on the line.

1. America's parents divorced when she was seven years old. _____
2. Raising six children on her own was hard work. _____
3. She graduated from high school with an A average. _____
4. The show is based on a Columbian soap opera with a similar name. _____
5. Ferrera has done her part to help other people and to have a positive effect on the world. _____
6. Her rehearsal schedule for *Ugly Betty* sometimes requires her to work twelve hours a day! _____
7. She graduated from college in 2007 with a double major in theater and international relations. _____
8. Now that's ambitious! _____
9. Ferrera also has become involved with politics. _____
10. America Ferrera is anything but ugly in real life. _____

Write a fact from the biography, citing the page where you found it: _____

Write an opinion from the biography, citing the page where you found it: _____