Unit 1/Week 5

Title: Water Woman

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RI.3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.4, RI.3.7; W.3.2; SL.3.1; L3.1, L.3.2, L.3.4

Teacher Instructions

*Refer to the Introduction for further details*

**Before Teaching**

1. Read the Big Ideas and Key Understandings and the Synopsis. Please do **not** read this to the students. This is a description for teachers, about the big ideas and key understanding that students should take away **after** completing this task.

Big Ideas and Key Understandings

By overcoming challenges you can achieve your dreams.

Synopsis

In this biography, Amy VanDyken overcomes many challenges throughout her life to become an Olympic gold medalist.

1. Read entire main selection text, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.
2. Re-read the main selection text while noting the stopping points for the Text Dependent Questions and teaching Vocabulary.

**During Teaching**

1. Students read the entire main selection text independently.
2. Teacher reads the main selection text aloud with students following along. (Depending on how complex the text is and the amount of support needed by students, the teacher may choose to reverse the order of steps 1 and 2.)
3. Students and teacher re-read the text while stopping to respond to and discuss the questions and returning to the text. A variety of methods can be used to structure the reading and discussion (i.e.: whole class discussion, think-pair-share, independent written response, group work, etc.)

Text Dependent Questions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Text-dependent Questions** | **Evidence-based Answers** |
| The Olympic Games are a series of international athletic contests held in a different country during the summer and winter every four years. What was Amy’s dream? | It was Amy’s dream to take home a gold medal. |
| What happened to Amy after her first Olympic event? | Amy finishes fourth, no gold, no silver, not even bronze.  She also falls to the pool deck with cramps and grasps for breath. |
| The author writes, “but it’s not the first time Amy’s health has gotten in her way.” What does the author mean by this? | Amy had difficulty climbing stairs. She often would have to stop in the middle of a race to catch her breath. |
| The author used the term ‘vowed’ to explain Amy’s determination. Amy felt awful when the girls tried to get her to quit the swim team. What words or phrases did the author use to show that she would not give up? | She vowed that they would respect her, I am going to prove them wrong, and she did not quit the team, stubborn. |
| Amy tells herself, “This is too hard. I want to be normal.” What does she mean when she uses the word “normal”? | Amy wishes she had healthy lungs like her other teammates. She also wishes she did not have asthma. |
| In 1990, Amy “got all the way to nationals” competing against swimmers from other states. How does Amy’s “all-out” attitude pay off? | She won a bronze medal; she was named female NCAA swimmer of the year; she broke the 50-yard |
| Amy calls herself “the tough girl” What has Amy done in the past to prove this? | Amy would:  always get back into the pool  did not leave the team even after the other girls wanted her off  continued to swim once cramps had eased up  almost quit swimming but came back to train harder and go to nationals. |
| Amy’s dream was to win a gold medal. What evidence is there that she achieved her dream? | In 1996, Amy won a place on the Olympic team.  The U.S. wins gold, the next day she wins the 100-meter butterfly. |

Vocabulary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING** | **WORDS WORTH KNOWING**  General teaching suggestions are provided in the Introduction |
| **TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION**  not enough contextual clues provided in the text | furiously  Olympic games  vowed  Nationals | freestyle, Atlanta, Georgia  relay  NCAA  butterfly, medley  deaf, biology |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**  Sufficient context clues are provided in the text | bronze, burst  asthma  stubborn  flopped  charged | stretcher, trainer, cramps  flight  awkward  virus, depressed  boost  ease  popular, fake, future |

Culminating Task

* Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write
* *In the biography, Water Woman, Amy Van Dyken faced many challenges throughout her life in order to achieve her Olympic dream. Beginning with her childhood, write a paragraph using temporal words, sequencing the challenges that Amy overcame on her road to becoming an Olympian. (Note: It may be helpful for students to use a timeline as a graphic organizer to help them complete this task.)*

Answer: Amy has had asthma since she was little girl which made swimming difficult for her; in high school her classmates made fun of her; she caught a terrible virus and became depressed; she quit swimming for a few months; she suffered from muscle cramps.

Additional Tasks

* Have students choose another Olympic athlete to research and prepare a short oral report in order to share their findings with the class.
* Compare and contrast Amy VanDyken with another athlete who also had to overcome challenges.
* Have students complete a biography of a family member in order to gain more familiarity with the genre.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“Water Woman”**

1. The Olympic Games are a series of international athletic contests held in a different country during the summer and winter every four years. What was Amy’s dream?
2. What happened to Amy after her first Olympic event?
3. The authors writes, “But it’s not the first time Amy’s health has gotten in her way.” What does the author mean by this?
4. The author used the term ‘vowed’ to explain Amy’s determination. Amy felt awful when the girls tried to get her to quit the swim team. What words or phrases did the author use to show that she would not give up?
5. Amy tells herself, “This is too hard. I want to be normal.” What does she mean when she uses the word “normal”?
6. In 1990, Amy “got all the way to nationals” competing against swimmers from other states. How does Amy’s “all-out” attitude pay off?
7. Amy calls herself “the tough girl.” What has Amy done in the past to prove this?
8. Amy’s dream was to win a gold medal. What evidence is there that she achieved her dream?