Our Stories: Sportsmanship

by Net Brennan
ISBN: 9781742032337
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Outline:

This new addition to the non-fiction picture book series Our Stories is about sports and sportsmanship in Australia. Australia’s passion for sport defines us: our history, our tradition, our values, our identity. These are the stories of the sportsmen and women whose talent stopped the nation. These are the moments when we threw our arms in the air and cheered.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Net Brennan lives in Hobart with her husband, three children and a fluffy dog. She likes seeing snow on Mount Wellington – but not in summer! Net has 20 years’ experience as a feature writer, magazine editor and sports journalist, and is also a qualified English/History teacher. Our Stories: Child Convicts was her first book with Black Dog Books.

How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

These notes are for:
• Primary years 5-6
• Ages 10+

Key Learning Areas:
• English
• History

Example of:
• Non-fiction

Themes/Ideas:
• Australian History
• Sport
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Histories and Cultures
• Prejudice/Racism
• Women’s Rights
• Teamwork

National Curriculum Focus:*  

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*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.
Discussion Questions and Activities:

**English**

View the cover and title. Identify the title of the book, the author and the publisher. Discuss the following: What is the role of the author? What is the role of the publisher?

From the front and back cover what information can you learn about the book? What do you think this book is about? What information do you think will be covered in this book? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

How does the layout of this book affect the readability of the text? Consider the large illustrations and photos, small blocks of text, and bold and coloured sections of text.

Find the following sections in Sportsmanship and explain their purpose. In what kind of books might you find these sections?

- Contents
- Glossary
- Index

In what order is a glossary set out? How does this help when using it? What is the purpose of an index? In what sort of books would you find one?

Who is the audience for this book? What makes you think that? Who do you think might enjoy this book other than the intended audience?

Write a newspaper report on one of the key events discussed in the book. Use informative, unbiased language in your report.

**History**

As a class, have a discussion on the reliability of information found online. Are all websites reliable? Discuss how addresses ending in .gov or .edu are generally reliable, but other addresses ending in .com need to be used with caution. Why can some websites feature unreliable information?

Have a class discussion on sportsmanlike and unsportsmanlike behaviour. What is the difference between them? Find examples of both of these behaviours in the book. Share with the class stories of sportsmanlike and unsportsmanlike behaviour from your personal experience.

Shane Gould was a successful sportsperson but retired from professional swimming at a young age. Why did she retire? What are the challenges of being a successful sportsperson in a nation that has a particularly strong sporting identity?

Discuss why the “Gladiators” image (page 23) has come to represent Australian sportsmanship.

**Physical Education**

Have a class discussion on sportsmanlike and unsportsmanlike behaviour. What is the difference between them? Find examples of both of these behaviours in the book. Share with the class stories of sportsmanlike and unsportsmanlike behaviour from your personal experience.

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