



KID OLYMPIANS

★ ★ ★ SUMMER ★ ★

TRUE TALES OF CHILDHOOD FROM CHAMPIONS AND GAME CHANGERS CURRICULUM GUIDE

STORIES BY *ROBIN STEVENSON* ILLUSTRATIONS BY *ALLISON STEINFELD*

★ Common Core Connections ★

Kid Olympians: Summer: True Tales of Childhood from Champions and Game Changers contains kid-friendly and relatable childhood stories of sixteen of the world's most inspiring Olympians and Paralympians. This curriculum guide includes a broad range of language arts activities, book discussion, vocabulary instruction, and more to accommodate the learning needs of most students in grades 4 through 7. Students are asked to be careful readers without jeopardizing the fun of reading. Throughout the guide, correlations between the discussion questions and activities and specific Common Core Language Arts Standards are noted. For more information on specific standards, visit the Common Core website at www.corestandards.org.

★ PRESEASON (A.K.A. PRE-READING) ACTIVITIES ★

- ★ Previewing the text helps students understand the informational purpose of the book. Key characteristics of the text include the title, table of contents, use of illustrations, chapter headings, bibliography, and index. Ask students to compare and contrast the format of *Kid Olympians: Summer* with a narrative book.
 - ★ Have students choose an athlete featured in *Kid Olympians: Summer*. Then ask them to use the internet to find five facts about their Olympian or Paralympian that they find interesting. Invite students to present their findings to the class. To extend this activity to a post-reading activity, have students go back to see how many of their fun facts were mentioned in the book.
 - ★ Write the name of each Olympian and Paralympian featured in *Kid Olympians: Summer* on the board. Read each name aloud and ask your students which athletes they have heard about and what sports they played. For any athletes no one has heard of, ask students to guess which sport the athlete is known for. Then, go through the book to see how many they got correct.
 - ★ Ask your class the following questions. Have students brainstorm, and then call on individual students to write their answers on the board.
 - ★ What is your favorite sport to watch during the Summer Olympics?
 - ★ How much training do you think it takes to become an Olympic-level athlete?
 - ★ If you could be an Olympian, what sport would you want to play?
 - ★ What makes an Olympic athlete a good role model?
 - ★ If you were in the next Summer Olympics, who would you invite to cheer you on from the stands?
 - ★ Do you have any memories of watching the Summer Olympics?
 - ★ List five words that you associate with the word *athlete*.
 - ★ List as many Summer Olympic sports you can think of.
 - ★ How do you think someone becomes an Olympian?
 - ★ What qualities do champions have?
 - ★ Compare and contrast two sports that are played in the Summer Olympics.
 - ★ Look at the table of contents in *Kid Olympians: Summer*. Which of the featured athletes do you think had the most interesting childhood? Why?
 - ★ What do you think makes an athlete worth learning about?
 - ★ Which athlete featured in *Kid Olympians: Summer* are you most interested in learning about? Why?
- ★ Ask students to write a paragraph on why they think it's important to learn about Olympians' and Paralympians' backgrounds and childhoods.

PRE-READING COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

The Pre-Reading Activities address the following Common Core State Standards:

Writing

Text Types and Purposes

Grade 4 – W.4.1-3e
Grade 5 – W.5.1-3e
Grade 6 – W.6.1-3.e
Grade 7 – W.7.1-1c, 2-2d, 3-3e

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Grade 4 – W.4.7-9b
Grade 5 – W.5.7-9b
Grade 6 – W.6.7-9
Grade 7 – W.7.7-9a

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

Grade 4 – SL.4.1-2
Grade 5 – SL.5.1-1d
Grade 6 – SL.6.1-2
Grade 7 – SL.7.1

Speaking and Listening

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade 4 – SL.4.4-6
Grade 5 – SL.5.4-5
Grade 6 – SL.6.4-5

★ GRAND SLAM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ★

After reading *Kid Olympians: Summer*, have your students answer the following discussion questions by themselves, in pairs, in small groups, or as a class.

- ★ What obstacles did Jesse Owens face after he became an Olympian?
- ★ How did Wilma Rudolph's childhood illnesses affect her development into a groundbreaking athlete?
- ★ How did Usain Bolt's lack of motivation hurt his aspirations? How and why did he overcome it?
- ★ What does Tatyana McFadden's motto *Ya sama* mean? How does it relate to her life?
- ★ How did Dick Fosbury change the sport of high jumping? How did he become a better athlete by not caring what others thought of him?
- ★ What role did the Romanian government play in Nadia Comăneci's Olympic pursuits? How did it affect her life after the Olympics?
- ★ How did Serena Williams's relationship with her sister make her a better athlete?
- ★ How did dressing differently than other kids lead Ibtihaj Muhammad on her path to the Olympics?
- ★ What problem did Gertrude Ederle encounter when she tried to swim the English Channel? How did she fix it?
- ★ What sacrifices did Michael Phelps have to make for swimming?
- ★ How did Ellie Simmonds not let her small stature stop her from doing big things?
- ★ In what ways does being a refugee make Yusra Mardini a unique Olympic role model?
- ★ What was the Olympic Project for Human Rights? How did Tommie Smith use his platform as an Olympic athlete to support it and to stand up for Black Americans?
- ★ How did Megan Rapinoe use her voice to help others?
- ★ In what ways did Simone Biles's decision to withdraw from the Tokyo Olympics make her a bigger role model than she already was?
- ★ How did Naomi Osaka bring awareness to systemic racism and police brutality?
- ★ Pick two athletes from *Kid Olympians: Summer*. Compare and contrast their childhoods and explain how each one's upbringing contributed to their athletic successes.
- ★ What do the people in each part of the book—Part One: Racing Ahead, Part Two: Making History, Part Three: Swimming into Summer, and Part Four: Speaking Out—have in common? Why do you think the author organized the book this way?
- ★ List all sixteen athletes featured in *Kid Olympians: Summer*. Then, write down the two best adjectives to describe each one next to their name.
- ★ Which athlete featured in *Kid Olympians: Summer* do you think had the most interesting childhood? Why? Who do you think had the most obstacles to overcome?
- ★ Using examples from the book, explain how you relate to one of the athletes featured in *Kid Olympians: Summer*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

The Discussion Questions address the following Common Core State Standards for:

Reading Informational Text:

Key Ideas and Details

Grade 4 – RI.4.1-3

Grade 5 – RI.5.1-3

Grade 6 – RI.6.1-3

Grade 7 – RI.7.1-3

Craft and Structure

Grade 4 – RI.4.4-6

Grade 5 – RI.5.4-6

Grade 6 – RI.6.4-6

Grade 7 – RI.7.6

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade 4 – RI.4.7, 9

Grade 5 – RI.5.9

Grade 6 – RI.6.9

Grade 7 – RI.7.9

Range of Reading Level of Text Complexity

Grade 4 – RI.4.10

Grade 5 – RI.5.

Grade 7 – SL.7.4-5

★ VARSITY VOCABULARY ★

Review this list of vocabulary words and phrases found throughout *Kid Olympians: Summer*. First ask students if they can guess the words' meaning by rereading each word in the context of the book. Then have them use dictionaries to check their answers and define the words. Extend the lesson by having them use each word in a sentence of their own. Since there are so many vocabulary words, you may choose to review these words over a few class periods, as well as assigning some for homework. You can also use them for your weekly vocabulary list, daily word study, or spelling exercises.

INTRODUCTION

Paralympics
grace
swiftly
ultimate
international
competitions
occasion
constantly
exhausting
outlet
endless
siblings
copied
overcome
circumstances
polio
racist
attitudes
wheelchair
orphanage
encouraged
stockings
tantrum
mocked
unconventional
particularly
commitment
desire
excuse
arcade
determination
odds
shattered

JESSE OWENS

headlines
mistake
sharecroppers
land owners
necessities
racism
discrimination

enforced
segregation
separate
access
afford
operated
poverty
possum
devout
deacon
shabby
doubled
barely
orchards
involved
courage
migration
fled
freedom
economic
opportunities
possessions
integrated
assumed
extraordinary
potential
greenhouse
depended
earned
sprinting
field
instructions
training
mentor
attention
organized
stopwatch
sprinter
proper
gear
accurate
distance
quarter mile

overtaking
admired
racetrack
effortlessly
galloped
impressed
injured
accident
transferred
dorms
campus
improve
compete
managed
unbelievable
decade
referred to
Nazi party
inferior
minorities
boycott
investigate
wrongly
concluded
breathtaking
undermine
discovered
freight elevator
native country
achievements
status
frustrated
endorsement
speaking
engagements
amateur
various
dry cleaning
symbolized
tyranny
racial
bigotry

WILMA RUDOLPH

recover
unable
maid
porter
support
make ends meet
premature
infection
measles
mumps
chicken pox
whooping cough
pneumonia
scarlet fever
prevented
vaccination
common
survived
diagnosed
creation
loomed
threat
terrifying
epidemic
risk
survivors
paralyzed
local
provide
realized
crooked
inward
recalled
eventually
exercises
massage
brace
relearning
treatments
condition
recovery
restricting

treated
required
athletic
proved
capable
extremely
talented
record
slang
mosquito
natural
acquired
spirit
relay
baton
bronze metal
remarkable
qualified
unbroken
incredibly
swelled
bruised
record-breaking
microphones
pounding
hailed
media
suddenly
integrated
municipal
announced
retirement
accomplishment
welled up
representative
previous
international
visible
civil rights
protest
public facilities
bachelor's degree
voted

★ VARSITY VOCABULARY CONTINUED ★

figure
 inspired
 generations
 thrill
 legacy

USAIN BOLT

skip
 unstoppable
 hyperactive
 outgrow
 community
 mangoes
 guava
 rumbled
 wicket
 strict
 insisted
 polite
 confident
 nickname
 pronouncing
 incorrectly
 competitive streak
 determined
 solve
 advantage
 squad
 shrugged
 bribed
 outrun
 scorching
 gasoline
 reputation
 former
 scholarship
 expensive
 disappointed
 upright
 starting block
 stamina
 technique
 sloppy
 flapped
 admitted
 joystick
 motivated
 repeat
 laziness

encountered
 repeatedly
 vowing
 seriously
 footage
 unusual
 posture
 fascinated
 rival
 victory
 represent
 homesick
 fizzy
 several
 nervous
 despite
 competitors
 full-time
 scoliosis
 curvature
 spine
 criticized
 persuaded

**TATYANA
 MCFADDEN**

condition
 spina bifida
 surgery
 miracle
 awareness
 disability
 government
 disabled people
 dozen
 porridge
 cabbage
 scooted
 stubborn
 director
 confused
 commissioner
 unexpected
 connection
 adopt
 iron
 unfamiliar
 taxi
 experiences

scented
 introduced
 exclaimed
 relatives
 stiff
 physical activity
 enrolled
 archery
 doubt
 fearlessly
 gestures
 professional
 alongside
 goals
 obstacles
 posed
 devastated
 sue
 opportunity
 amputee
 prosthetic
 legal battle
 equity
 ensure
 impact
 activism
 competition
 marathon
 feat
 podium
 world-class
 advocate
 coproduced
 documentary
 globally
 venues
 perceptions

DICK FOSBURY

cleared
 salesman
 bookkeeper
 laid-back
 lighthearted
 goofy
 radiator
 focus
 high jump
 sawdust

pit
 square dancing
 coast
 drunk driver
 blamed
 grief
 divorced
 distraction
 demonstrated
 straddle
 performed
 gazelle
 method
 standards
 gangly
 gawky
 skilled
 desperate
 dismissed
 persistent
 blunt
 spectators
 failing
 audience
 embarrassment
 concentrating
 outdated
 backward
 conscious decision
 invent
 overheard
 mystified
 edge
 disqualified
 technicality
 baffled
 experiment
 scraps
 foam
 modifying
 headfirst
 skeptical
 laziest
 feared
 ignore
 doubters
 rather
 contender
 defied

convention
 opening ceremony
 transformed
 nearly

NADIA COMĂNECI

nonstop
 mechanic
 communist
 tremendous
 suffering
 increasingly
 cornmeal
 trapped
 underneath
 laced up
 pedals
 collapse
 refused
 gymnasium
 equipment
 vault
 beam
 parallel
 instructor
 rare
 leotard
 leap
 promptly
 unlike
 government-
 approved
 shocked
 flabbergasted
 uneven
 scoreboard
 programmed
 historic
 routine
 overwhelming
 jostling
 significance
 accomplished
 clash
 federation
 transfer
 previous
 disco
 puberty

★ VARSITY VOCABULARY CONTINUED ★

adjust
persevered
valuable
asset
symbol
superiority
illegally
defectors
dramatically
border
directly

SERENA WILLIAMS

detailed
announcer
future
possessions
security
flexible
cement
litter
grumbled
mimic
scatter
fuss
forgave
porcelain
accidentally
jealous
confessed
drifted
practice matches
cheated
objected
gaining
tournaments
pressure
wealthy
condition
league
application
expected
delighted
alarming
reminder
battle
slump
option
extreme

circuit
convinced
expectations
insecurities
confidence
ranked
highest-earning
considered

IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD

hijab
converted
Islam
mosque
Muslim
verged
hazardous
envied
religion
spandex
maturity
faith
dodge
insults
Latino
prepare
apply
supportive
following
appeared
interested
fencing
uniform
contacted
strategy
agile
lunged
opponent
position
uncomfortable
concerned
ahead
nerdy
disciplines
protective
underarm
protector
mesh

aggressive
roar
saber
tip
eliminated
crushed
advocating
influential
aisle
proudest
stadium
modern

GERTRUDE EDERLE

immigrants
butcher
blacksmith
trough
lifelong
specialists
permanent
self-conscious
naturally
zoom
steam-powered
disaster
wobbly
plank
dam
causing
panic
drown
bungalow
porch
current
sturdy
stroke
paddle
propel
founded
fabric
tradition
practical
cheap
volunteer
water polo
length
furious
develop

efficient
maintain
merely
adopters
formal
dominated
unladylike
responsibilities
allowances
schedule
reluctant
fashionable
bob haircut
ever-increasing
proclaimed
maintained
doggedly
propellers
deafness
fueling
interest
boarded
unfortunately
influence
unsurprisingly
paraded
financially
endurance
attempt
chafed
weighing
pace
unassisted
automatically
designed
goggles
decent
bold
coated
grease
protect

MICHAEL PHELPS

successful
suburb
home economics
breakable
saltshaker
twirl

casserole
resulting
concoction
resist
popped
streaming
frantically
persisted
gradually
comfortable
possible
sensitive
abandoned
teasing
lisp
figured out
notably
complained
patient
active
personality
behavior
kickboard
talent
undeniable
notice
continued
challenges
temper
flicking
suspended
resolving
conflicts
realistic
shock
fooled
sacrifice
cockpit
clocking
arranged
limousine
celebratory
secretly
autograph
tattoo
predicted
quite

★ VARSITY VOCABULARY CONTINUED ★

ELLIE SIMMONDS

achondroplasia
genetic
dwarfism
energetic
sink in
easily
stables
shallow
suggested
messing around
able-bodied
average
reaching
altered
significant
disadvantage
rarely
kicked in
highlighting
classification
cerebral palsy
regardless
biennial
lizards
specialized
available
sacrifice
nominated
contribution
flag bearer
promote

YUSRA MARDINI

torn apart
journey
preferred
gazed
claim
weight-training
stitches
worsened
stressed
anxious
thrilled
anti-government
uprisings
water aerobics
graffiti

rumors
arrest
explosions
evacuated
questioning
identification
soldiers
searched
route
hesitated
terrified
screeched
slammed
reverse
shaken
precious
rebellion
civil war
government forces
rebels
booza
pistachios
thunderous
meter-long
grenade
visa
refugees
smugglers
passengers
inflatable
dinghy
overboard
swamped
shore
aching
ferry
mainland
dusk
asylum
achieve
desert
limits
elite
roots
lack
intellectual
inclusion
ranging

TOMMIE SMITH

atop
nearby
remained
owing
repay
leaked
huddled
earliest
marshy
spotted
instead
hardworking
crowded
labor camp
principal
noticing
recess
knocked
debt
stilts
drafty
straight
marked
obvious
pride
ironing
crease
janitor
flushing
outhouse
surrounded
desirable
ashamed
attend
society
human rights
aims
global
demands
population
uninvited
statement
fist
unity
solidarity
silent
disagreed
avenue

banned
criticism
received
death threats
harassed
regrets
master's degree
social change
published
memoir

MEGAN RAPINOE

half-siblings
alcoholic
crane operator
instantly
avidly
sidelines
imitate
piping
clicking
cleats
unbeatable
perfectly
matched
absolute
swoop
horror
volume
comforted
rage
embarrassed
out of control
relaxed
accepting
emotions
leftovers
least
blocked
cozy
staff
glamorous
terrible
charming
arrested
juvenile detention
addiction
impossible
prison

onward
obsessed
fanatically
self-motivated
farther
objection
minivan
uncool
serious
goofball
popular
struggles
social life
bewildered
tagged behind
decisions
coped
confusion
style
stuck
shin pads
branded
logo
startling
semester
publicly
rocketed
create
break down
stereotypes
famously
corner kick
kneel

SIMONE BILES

evident
outstretched
foster care
trampoline
housing projects
lengthy
process
fanciest
finalize
roughhousing
pull-ups
impression
muscular
inseparable

★ VARSITY VOCABULARY CONTINUED ★

spew	artistic	relationship	overnight	opinions
fluid	abuse	blueprint	precisely	biracial
trickling	accountable	stew	idol	glowing
container	collarbone	deeply	serves	friendlier
paintballs	oppression	bento lunch boxes	overtime	depression
hilarious	human spirit	processed food	broke	suicide
mastering	body awareness	multiple	grateful	partially
stunned	tumbled	expenses	necessarily	seek
apparatus	dangerous	slippery	define	topic
fantasizing	occurrence	unlicensed	label	
regional	refer	evenings	donated	
flashed	withdrew	honestly	petitions	
switched	conversation	literally	systemic racism	
presented	mental health	tutus	police brutality	
heartbroken	NAOMI OSAKA	expressive	social media	
reunited	grand slam	revolve	immediate	
pursue	main	creative	pandemic	
ordinary	approve	socialize	cauldron	
collected		trodden	honor	

After your class is familiar with the vocabulary list, invite them to choose fifteen to twenty words and use them to write their own short adventure stories featuring the champions highlighted in *Kid Olympians: Summer*.

VOCABULARY COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

The vocabulary activities address the following Common Core State Standards for Language:

Conventions of Standard English

Grade 4 – L.4.1-2
Grade 5 – L.5.1-2
Grade 6 – L.6.1-2
Grade 7 – L.7.1-2

Knowledge of Language

Grade 4 – L.4.3
Grade 5 – L.5.3
Grade 6 – L.6.3
Grade 7 – L.7.3

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Grade 4 – L.4.4-6
Grade 5 – L.5.4-6
Grade 6 – L.6.4-6
Grade 7 – L.7.4-6

★ LEAGUE-ISSUED LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES ★

Trophy-Winning Trailers

After reading *Kid Olympians: Summer*, place your students into groups to produce a movie trailer about an athlete's life. Have them use the information in the book coupled with any outside research they'd like to do. Instruct them to write a script with a list of shots they need, stage directions, dialogue, voiceovers, and music. After they film and edit their trailers, hold a premiere and screen the trailers for the class.

PROfiles

Most Olympians these days are very active on social media. Have your students develop a mock social media profile for any of the athletes featured in *Kid Olympians: Summer*. Ask them to choose a social media platform, such as TikTok, Instagram, or Facebook. Then direct them to create a profile filled with information from the Olympian's point of view. Have students start with a profile picture for the athlete, then ask them to fill out the bio and/or personal information sections with milestones and important events from the athlete's life, add the names and images of some of their friends and followers, and write posts and status updates from the perspective of the athlete as if they were posting from the Summer Olympics. Finally, share the profiles on your online learning platform for other students to see.

All-Star Reporters

Turn your students into newspaper reporters. Ask them to choose an athlete from *Kid Olympians: Summer* that they would like to learn more about. Then instruct them to use material from the book, the books in the bibliography, and outside research to create a newspaper article about one of their chosen athlete's Olympic performances. Encourage them to set the scene and use quotes and descriptive language to bring the event to life. Compile and publish all the articles in a newspaper and distribute it to the class.

Training Log

Have students choose a sport from the Summer Olympics. Instruct them to research how athletes who compete in it train. Ask them to write five entries in a training journal that show what an athlete needs to do to be competitive in the

sport. To help spark ideas, suggest that entries include how long the athlete practices, drills, cross-training activities, diet, meditation and other mental exercises, a sleep schedule, milestones, records, or goals.

Olympic Trading Cards

Instruct the class to make trading cards for the athletes featured in *Kid Olympians: Summer*. Measure and cut cardstock to 2.5 inches by 3.5 inches, like traditional trading cards. Using the book and the internet, have students research the athletes and choose the pictures and information they deem most essential to include. The cards should contain statistics and fun facts about the athlete on one side and a picture of them in action on the other. Ask students to share their cards with the class.

Cereal-sly Amazing

A perk for many Olympic athletes is having their picture featured on the front of a cereal box. Have your students choose an athlete from *Kid Olympians* and design a cereal box for them. Their boxes should feature an image of the athlete and at least five of their athletic achievements. Hang the cereal boxes around your classroom for everyone to enjoy.

Competitive Comparisons

Currently, there are nine books in the Kid Legends series. In addition to *Kid Olympians: Summer*, there are *Kid Presidents*, *Kid Athletes*, *Kid Artists*, *Kid Authors*, *Kid Scientists*, *Kid Activists*, *Kid Innovators*, and *Kid Trailblazers*. Have students choose one Summer Olympian and one person featured in any of the other Kid Legends books. Then, have students compare and contrast the two figures by listing the things they have in common and the things about them that are different. Spark interest by suggesting they look at: why each person is famous, their careers, their family life, things that inspired them, childhood experiences, how they overcame obstacles, and what they are remembered for today. Instruct students to use their lists to help them write a comparative essay.

LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

The Language Arts Activities address the following Common Core State Standards:

Writing

Text Types and Purposes

Grade 4 – W.4.1-3e
Grade 5 – W.5.1-3e
Grade 6 – W.6.1-3.e
Grade 7 – W.7.1-1c, 2-2d, 3-3e

Production and Distribution of Writing

Grade 4 – W.4.4-6
Grade 5 – W.5.4-6
Grade 6 – W.6.4-6
Grade 7 – W.7.4-6

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Grade 4 – W.4.7-9b
Grade 5 – W.5.7-9b
Grade 6 – W.6.7-9
Grade 7 – W.7.7-9a

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

Grade 4 – SL.4.1-2
Grade 5 – SL.5.1-1d
Grade 6 – SL.6.1-2
Grade 7 – SL.7.1

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade 4 – SL.4.4-6
Grade 5 – SL.5.4-5
Grade 6 – SL.6.4-5
Grade 7 – SL.7.4-5

ABOUT THE BOOK

Triumphant, relatable, and totally true biographies tell the childhood stories of a diverse group of international athletes who have captured the world's attention at the Summer Olympics and Paralympics including Simone Biles, Jesse Owens, Michael Phelps, Naomi Osaka, Tatyana McFadden, Yusra Mardini, and ten other incredible Olympians.

Athletes throughout history have dreamed of competing in the Olympics—and some were kids themselves when those dreams and plans began! In *Kid Olympians: Summer*, discover the childhood stories of legends such as:

- Usain Bolt, who used to skip practices to go to the arcade and play video games.
- Serena Williams, who sometimes hit her tennis ball over the fence on purpose!
- Tatyana McFadden, who had to fight to be allowed on her school's track team

Featuring kid-friendly text and full-color illustrations, you'll be inspired to dream bigger, faster, and higher than ever before!

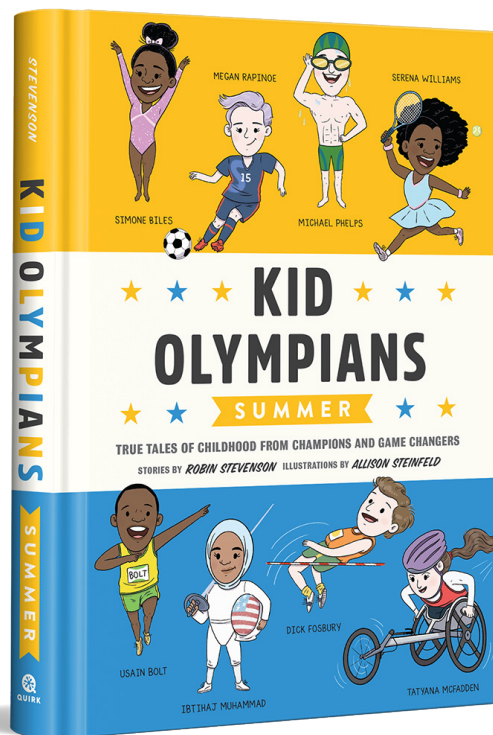
"More inspiring tales of young dreamers and achievers."—*Kirkus Reviews*

Praise for the Kid Legends series:

"A broadly diverse roster of role models."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Outstanding . . . Inspiring and entertaining."—*Booklist*, starred review

"Engaging and empowering." —YAYOMAG.com



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