
GAME DAY

Authors: Tiki and Ronde Barber with Robert Burleigh

Illustrator: Barry Root

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

THEME:

Although participation in sports benefits us physically, mentally, and emotionally, staying in the game is what really counts.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Game Day, written by NFL superstar twin brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber, share the story of how, as youngsters, they learned that success is built on team effort. Follow as athletes train for, play and enjoy a variety of sports, and we learn that every player on a team has a special role in contributing to the success of the group. As Host LeVar Burton points out, the lessons learned in sports can help you achieve your goals.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Discuss with students the benefits of playing sports.

Discuss what is necessary for people to excel in any sport.

Ask students to tell about teams they have been on or sports they have played.

Invite students to share an experience in which a sports activity made them feel really good about themselves.

Brainstorm activities besides sports that are successfully accomplished through teamwork.

Tiki and Ronde Barber are professional athletes as adults. Discuss with students how playing professionally is different from playing while in school. (Lead them to understand that participation is the professional athlete's job and includes a set of responsibilities that might accompany any job.)

CURRICULUM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Invite athletes from a local high school or university to visit the classroom as guest readers.

needed (if any), and scoring procedures. Invite each group to teach its game to the class.

Invite a coach as a guest speaker to talk about the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. Before the visit, brainstorm questions to ask the coach about being a member of a team.

Divide the class into small groups and give them the task of inventing a game or sport. Each group will need to determine the rules of play, equipment

Have students select a favorite sport and research its history. They might locate such facts as when and where it was first played, who "invented" it, early equipment used, a comparison of early rules with the way the game is now played, and the names of a few successful players from the past and present day. Compile the information into a "Sports Encyclopedia" and place it in the classroom library.

A number of sports figures, whether they have excelled as part of a team or as individuals, have needed to overcome different types of adversity on their paths to success. Have students locate picture book biographies of some of these athletes and research their backgrounds, noticing, in particular, qualities of determination, courage, and sportsmanship. Make a PowerPoint presentation of their findings. Have each student make a set of three slides: 1) containing the name of their subject, his/her sport, and a picture (photos may be downloaded from the internet and pasted on a slide if the PowerPoint is shown only within the school); 2) containing information about their subject's accomplishments in their sport; 3) containing a comment on this person's character and how he/she was able to overcome obstacles. Combine all the students' slides into a single presentation. Possible biographies for research include: Roberto Clemente: *Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates* by Jonah Winter (Atheneum); Hank Aaron: *Brave in Every Way* by Peter Golenbock (Harcourt); Champion: *The Story of Muhammad Ali* by Jim Haskins (Walker); Satchel Page by Lesa Cline-Ransome (Simon & Schuster); Lou Gehrig, the Luckiest Man by David A. Adler (Harcourt); Jim Thorpe's *Bright Path* by Joseph Bruchac (Lee & Low); Joe Louis, *America's Fighter* by David A. Adler (Harcourt); Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull (Harcourt); Promises to Keep: *How Jackie Robinson Changed America* by Sharon Robinson (Scholastic); Jesse Owens by Jane Sutcliffe (Carolrhoda); *America's Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle* by David A. Adler (Harcourt); Major Taylor, *Champion Cyclist* by Lesa Cline-Ransome (Atheneum), and *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story* by Paula Yoo (Lee & Low).

Different sports often utilize specialized vocabulary that may not be familiar to people who are not fans of a particular sport. Working in small groups, have each "team" select a sport (e.g., football, basketball, baseball, soccer, golf, etc.) and make a graphic organizer on a large piece of bulletin board paper. Place the name of the sport in the center hub and build outward with supporting hubs labeled as the following categories: equipment needed, player positions, scoring, and playing area. Enlist the aid of the library media specialist in locating nonfiction books on the chosen sports. After the groups have filled in the hubs with the correct terminology, have them construct a glossary to

accompany their graphic organizer. Display the organizers and glossaries in the hallway where all students can study the vocabulary associated with these games.

Work with the physical education teacher to discuss the rules, demonstrate basic moves, and explain proper use of equipment associated with sports commonly played by school teams. Allow time for students to ask questions and practice using the equipment and executing moves.

Tiki and Ronde Barber have written two other books about their childhood experiences with sports: *Teammates* (Simon & Schuster) and *By My Brother's Side* (Simon & Schuster). Obtain copies of these books and read them to the class. Compare the themes related to teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship that are common to all three of the Barbers' books.

RELATED THEMES:

healthy lifestyles
careers in sports

RELATED READING RAINBOW PROGRAMS:

#24 The Tortoise and the Hare
#60 Dinosaur Bob and His Adventures with the Family Lizardo
#65 Sports Pages

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Tiki Barber grew up in Virginia where he played youth football with his twin brother Ronde. At present, Tiki is a running back for the New York Giants. He lives with his wife and sons in New York. Ronde Barber is currently a corner-back for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Ronde, his wife, and daughters live in Florida. Both Tiki and Ronde have made NFL Pro Bowl appearances. They are both advocates for literacy programs in their local communities, as well. Game Day was the recipient of a 2006 Christopher Award, given to print or nonprint media that "affirms the highest values of the human spirit."

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR:

Barry Root was born in Alabama and grew up in Decatur, Georgia. He has illustrated several books for children, including Reading Rainbow feature book, *Someplace Else*. His work has also appeared in numerous national magazines. He lives in Pennsylvania with his wife, illustrator Kimberly Bulcken Root, their three children, and several dogs.

BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:

THE BLUE RIBBON DAY
by Katie Couric, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman (DoubleDay/Random House)

WINNERS NEVER QUIT!

by Mia Hamm, illustrated by Carol Thompson (HarperCollins)

PECORINO PLAYS BALL

by Alan Madison, illustrated by AnnaLaura Cantone (Anne Schwartz/Simon & Schuster)

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:

ROASTED PEANUTS

by Tim Egan (Houghton Mifflin)

TOUCHDOWN! YOU CAN PLAY FOOTBALL

by Nick Fauchald, illustrated by Bill Dickson (Capstone Press)

YOU'RE A GOOD SPORT, MISS MALARKEY

by Judy Finchler, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley (Walker)

MY FOOTBALL BOOK (series includes MY BASKETBALL BOOK, MY SOCCER BOOK, and MY BASEBALL BOOK)

by Gail Gibbons (HarperCollins)

TEAMMATES

by Peter Golenbock, illustrated by Paul Bacon (Harcourt)

WE ARE A TEAM

by Sharon Gordon (Benchmark)

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME: MICHAEL JORDAN AND ME

by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist (HarperCollins)

T IS FOR TOUCHDOWN

by Brad Herzog, illustrated by Mark Braught (Sleeping Bear Press)

CATCHING THE MOON: THE STORY OF A YOUNG GIRL'S BASEBALL DREAM

by Crystal Hubbard, illustrated by Randy DuBurke (Lee & Low)

LUKE GOES TO BAT

by Rachel Isadora (Penguin)

SALT IN HIS SHOES: MICHAEL JORDAN IN PURSUIT OF A DREAM

by Deloris Jordan & Roslyn M. Jordan, illustrated by Kadir Nelson (Simon & Schuster)

TIKI BARBER: STAR NEW YORK GIANTS RUNNING BACK

by Joanne Mattern (Mitchell Lane)

PLAY BALL!

by Jorge Posada with Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Raúl Colón (Simon & Schuster)