

Lesson Plan

Paving the Way

Book: *Candace Parker*

Series: WNBA Superstars

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice writing a short paragraph explaining someone they look up to and why they admire that person.

Supplies

- *Candace Parker* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read the *Candace Parker* book out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

After reading the book as a class, turn back to the “Paving the Way” feature on page 21. This feature starts by explaining that, when she was young, Candace Parker looked up to Tina Thompson. Then, the feature lists some of Thompson’s impressive achievements. It also explains that Thompson and Parker eventually played on the same team. Have students turn to a neighbor and discuss the following questions:

- Who is one person you look up to? What do you like or admire about this person?

Then, have students write a mini-biography of the person they admire. Like the feature on page 21, the mini-biography should be one paragraph long. It should begin with a topic sentence telling who the student admires. Next, students should explain the traits or accomplishments that they admire about this person. Finally, students should close by describing how they’d like to be similar to this person when they grow up.

Evaluation

Collect the paragraphs at the end of the activity, and give students up to 4 points:

- 1 point for starting with a clear topic sentence about who they admire
- 1 point for listing specific things they admire about this person
- 1 point for describing what they’d like to imitate
- 1 point for spelling and grammar that is relatively free from errors

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 4 (W 4.1).