

Lesson Plan

To the Top

Book: *LaMelo Ball: Basketball Star*

Series: Biggest Names in Sports

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students analyze how the information in each chapter of a book adds or relates to the book's central idea.

Supplies

- Several copies of the *LaMelo Ball: Basketball Star* book
- To the Top Guided Reading Assignment (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Divide students into groups of three or four. Print a copy of the To the Top GRA for each group.

Activity

When writing books, authors try to help readers understand key information and ideas. Often, a book will have one main point or a central idea. The book's chapters work together to help readers understand this main idea. For example, *LaMelo Ball: Basketball Star* tells the story of how and why LaMelo Ball became famous.

In this activity, students will explore how each chapter of the *LaMelo Ball: Basketball Star* book helps reinforce this main idea. Students should read the book in their groups. As they read, they should answer the questions on the To the Top GRA. First, students should write a one-paragraph summary of each chapter. This paragraph should begin with a topic sentence that describes the chapter's main focus. After that, students should write two or three sentences that list facts and information from the chapter that illustrate this main idea. Second, students should write one sentence explaining how the information in each chapter helps readers understand the main idea of the entire book.

Evaluation

Collect the GRAs at the end of class. Use the attached answer key to give each group up to 16 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 4 (RI 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.8).

To the Top Guided Reading Assignment

1. Write a paragraph summarizing the main ideas of Chapter 1 (“Family Reunion”).
2. How does this chapter help readers understand the book’s main idea?
3. Write a paragraph summarizing the main ideas of Chapter 2 (“Ball Brothers”).
4. How does this chapter help readers understand the book’s main idea?
5. Write a paragraph summarizing the main ideas of Chapter 3 (“Going Pro”).
6. How does this chapter help readers understand the book’s main idea?
7. Write a paragraph summarizing the main ideas of Chapter 4 (“Arriving in the NBA”).
8. How does this chapter help readers understand the book’s main idea?

To the Top Guided Reading Assignment

ANSWER KEY

1. Write a paragraph summarizing the main ideas of Chapter 1 (“Family Reunion”). (3 points)
Chapter 1 describes LaMelo Ball’s first NBA game against his brother, Lonzo, and the New Orleans Pelicans. It explains LaMelo’s drive to succeed at a high level and his impressive accomplishments at a young age. This combination of motivation and talent helped LaMelo overcome a first-half deficit and win the game.
2. How does this chapter help readers understand the book’s main idea? (1 point)
This chapter gives an impressive example of LaMelo Ball’s performance in the NBA and highlights his drive to succeed.
3. Write a paragraph summarizing the main ideas of Chapter 2 (“Ball Brothers”). (3 points)
Chapter 2 describes the Ball family’s history of playing basketball. Throughout his childhood, LaMelo Ball was exposed to the sport by his father and brothers. He even played with them for Chino Hills High School, where the brothers won the California State Championship.
4. How does this chapter help readers understand the book’s main idea? (1 point)
This chapter shows the importance of basketball in LaMelo Ball’s early life and describes how his skills began to develop.
5. Write a paragraph summarizing the main ideas of Chapter 3 (“Going Pro”). (3 points)
Chapter 3 summarizes LaMelo Ball’s transition to professional basketball, starting with his surprising choice to join a professional basketball team in Lithuania when he was 16 years old. It also describes his time with the Illawarra Hawks, a professional team in Australia, where he was named Rookie of the Year.
6. How does this chapter help readers understand the book’s main idea? (1 point)
This chapter highlights the steps in LaMelo Ball’s journey to becoming a skilled and successful pro basketball player.
7. Write a paragraph summarizing the main ideas of Chapter 4 (“Arriving in the NBA”). (3 points)
Chapter 4 describes LaMelo Ball’s first year in the NBA. It explains how Ball became the youngest player to ever record a triple-double, with more than ten of each statistic in points, rebounds, and assists. By the end of the year, Ball had played so well that he was named Rookie of the Year.
8. How does this chapter help readers understand the book’s main idea? (1 point)
This chapter illustrates how Ball’s skills and experiences prepared him to play basketball at the highest level.