

Lesson Plan

Acting as Athletes

Series: Today's Sports Stars

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students use facts from a nonfiction book to answer questions about a famous athlete, and to apply that knowledge by playing a guessing game with other students.

Supplies

- Several books in the Today's Sports Stars series
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Write the following questions on the whiteboard:

- What sport does this athlete play?
- What position do they play?
- What team do they play for?
- What games, records, or other achievements helped make this athlete famous?
- What awards has this athlete won, if any?
- What skills is the athlete known for? Are they tough? Fast? Strong?

Activity

Each book in the Today's Sports Stars series describes a different famous athlete. The books give facts about the athlete's life and accomplishments in professional sports. Have each student read a book from the series. While they read, they should keep in mind the questions on the whiteboard. Then, put the students into groups of three or four. Make sure each student in the group has read a different book. Students should take turns telling one another the answers to the questions on the board. They can look back through their book for help if they get stuck.

Next, have each student in the group secretly choose one of the athletes. One at a time, students will stand up. The other students in the group will try to guess which athlete the standing student chose. They can ask three questions for clues. They should pick questions from the whiteboard. And they should talk as if the standing student is the athlete. For example, they might ask, "What team do you play for?" The student will answer as if they are the athlete. A student acting as Puka Nacua could say, "I play for the Rams." If the standing student doesn't remember the answer, the group can choose a different question.

Once the group guesses correctly, a new student will stand up. If a group asks three questions and still doesn't know, the standing student can reveal who they are before sitting down.

Evaluation

Could students answer the questions based on the book they read? Could they guess which athletes their group members chose?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 3 (RI 3.1), and speaking and listening standards, grade 3 (SL 3.1).