



# The Ace

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Determination, Equality, Breaking Barriers

**Book Brief:** The true tale of a little boy from Africa who grew up to become an inspiring leader!

**Author:**  
Storytime

**Illustrator:**  
Adri Predoi

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, “Have you ever been told you couldn’t do something because of who you are? How did that make you feel?” Explain to students that this story is about real events, but it is told like a story with characters, a setting, and events in order.

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** “As we read, look for details about what Billie Jean does and why she does it. Ask yourself questions about her actions and goals.”



**Think Aloud:** “I’m asking myself: Why does Billie Jean keeps trying even though people are telling her how to behave? The text makes me think she believes everyone deserves the same chance, and she’s determined to prove it!”

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- What does Billie Jean love to do?
- What challenges does Billie Jean face as a girl who wants to play tennis?
- Why is it important to Billie Jean to become a champion?
- What does Billie Jean do when she faces unfair treatment?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** “What key details did we learn about Billie Jean and her goals? What questions did you ask yourself while reading, and how did the text answer them?”

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students, “What is something you’re determined to accomplish, even if it seems difficult?” Encourage students to write about or discuss a time they had to keep trying at something challenging or identify a goal they have now. They can create a “Champion’s Plan” showing their goal and three specific actions they’ll take to work toward it, just like Billie Jean practiced and competed to become a champion.

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- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.