Flying Solo

HOW RUTH ELDER SOARED INTO AMERICA'S HEART

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Aviation, Famous Women, Perseverance

Book Brief: This book tells the story of Ruth Elder, one of the first pilots to try to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Even though Ruth's plane landed in the ocean before making it to Europe, her popularity soared.

Author:
Julie Cummins

Illustrator:
Malene R. Laugesen

Content Connections:
Social Studies, Science, Math, Technology

TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: What can you tell about the setting—time and place—of this story based on the cover illustration?
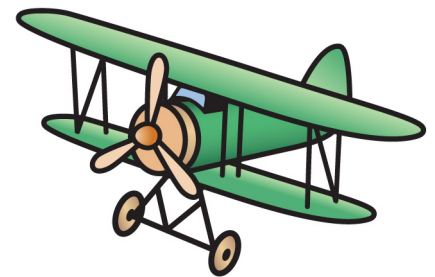
The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. Ask children what else they can learn about the time period in which the story takes place based on the pictures. What specific details do they notice?

Prior Knowledge: What famous aviators are students already familiar with? Are any female? Let students

watch this video at **www.youtube.com/watch?v=FI6S TwhPCuI** to see the popular barnstorming and aerobatic stunts done during this time period.

Vocabulary: aviatrix, feat, luck, provisions, turbulence, vaudeville

Purpose for Reading: As we read, think about what the overall theme of this story might be.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

◆ What motivates somebody to be the first at trying something?

◆ Where does courage come from?

◆ Why do you think Ruth became famous even though she did not reach her goal?

◆ Do you think some people may have wanted to see her fail? Explain.

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What do you think is the overall theme of this story? What evidence from the text supports your answer?

Extending Our Thinking: How have ideas about women's accomplishments changed since the 1920s? Many people have never heard of Ruth Elder although her name was in the headlines of many newspapers. Why are some people remembered more than others? Is a person's contribution more important if that person is remembered? Explain.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.

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Reading Is Fundamental