

Historic Figures: 3rd-5th Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Nonfiction, Famous People, History, Biography

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with books about historic figures at the 3rd-5th Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA, Social Studies

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what historic figure is this book about?

Prior Knowledge: Some students in this age range may need an introduction to this figure and era. Discuss the person and setting with your class to make sure all students have the necessary prior knowledge to understand the book.

Vocabulary: Identify 8-10 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to understand how events are connected to each other in a historical text. As we read, think about the connections between the historic figure, the historic events described in the book, and this person's major accomplishment.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- Summarize the events in the book. Explain what happened and why.
- What is the main idea of this book? Use key details and quotes to support your answer.
- Describe how the illustrations help you to understand where, when, why, and how key events occurred. Give specific details.
- Describe the structure the author uses. Is it chronological, compare and contrast, cause and effect, or problem and solution? Is it some combination of these, or another structure entirely?

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: Describe the connections between the historic figure, the historic events described in the text, and this person's major accomplishment.

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students to consider the main events of this book and the different reactions people had to those events. Ask students to write a paragraph describing how they would react to those events, comparing and contrasting their reaction to that of the highlighted historic figure.