

## Lesson 5: Recent and Current Heroes

### Getting Started

#### ? Big Ideas

- ✓ How do citizens change their communities?
- ✓ What characteristics help people make positive changes?



#### Facts and Definitions

- ✓ Adjectives describe nouns.



#### Skills

- ✓ Read and comprehend text by locating information for specific purposes. (LA)
- ✓ Read expository materials for answers to specific questions. (LA)
- ✓ Identify and describe attributes of responsible citizenship. (SS)
- ✓ Analyze and evaluate the effects of responsible citizenship in the school, community, and other social environments. (SS)
- ✓ Identify and use adjectives in writing. (LA)



#### Materials

- ✓ "Adjectives Describe Nouns (Option 1)"
- ✓ "Adjectives Describe Nouns (Option 2)"
- ✓ *50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet* by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe
- ✓ journal
- ✓ colored pencils or markers
- ✓ materials will vary depending on what your child selects

### Introduction

Discuss how we often look to the past to recognize heroes, and some people did not become heroes until after their death when people were able to see what they accomplished over their lifetime. America has recent as well heroes who lived in the past. Recent heroes are people who have changed the world recently and continue to do so. You may know a little about the two people you are going to read about today.

### Reading and Questions

Have your child answer the following questions after reading the chapter on Walt Disney (pp. 38-39).

1. What characteristics of a hero do you believe Disney demonstrated?
  - He believed in his dreams and would not give up. He was also visionary and was able to come up with ideas no one else had thought of.
2. Are you similar to Disney in any way? If so, explain.
  - Answers will vary.
3. What do you think was the best idea that Disney ever had?
  - Answers will vary.
4. How did Disney change the world?
  - Walt Disney added a new spirit to movie making. He supported the idea that dreams can come true and proved it with his movies and theme parks.

## Reading and Questions

Have your child answer the following questions after reading the chapter on Jackie Joyner-Kersey (pp. 62-63).

1. How was Joyner-Kersey's childhood different from her adult life?
  - As a child, Joyner-Kersey grew up when the civil rights campaign for black Americans was in full stride. She lived in a crime-infested neighborhood. She grew up to be a very successful Olympic athlete.
2. How did Joyner-Kersey give back to her community?
  - She established the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Community Foundation to help city youth develop their talents.
3. What are some things you can do to give back to your community?
  - Answers will vary. Discuss that Joyner-Kersey stated, "Don't follow in my footsteps. Make your own!"
4. What characteristics of a hero do you believe Joyner-Kersey demonstrates?
  - Answers will vary. You may want to discuss the fact that Joyner-Kersey suffered with asthma but didn't let that slow her down (persistence, determination, etc).
5. In what year(s) did Joyner-Kersey win Olympic medals? How many medals did she win?
  - 1988 and 1992. 3 total medals (2 in 1988 and 1 in 1992).
6. Do you have a hero? If so, describe him or her.
  - Answers will vary.

## Activities

### Activity 1: Hero Cards

When your child finishes his reading, let him fill out the hero cards for the heroes from this lesson and then record their names and the date in which Walt Disney died on the timeline.

### Activity 2: Adjectives Describe Nouns

For this grammar activity, your child will record two nouns in each category (person, place, or thing) that relate to the heroes he learned about today. There are two options for this activity. In Option 1, the nouns are provided for your child; in Option 2, your child must think of both the nouns and adjectives.

#### Option 1

The "Adjectives Describe Nouns" (Option 1) page provides your child with the nouns, and his job is to think of an adjective to describe each noun. The adjective used to describe the word can be two words. For example, a movie might be "black and white."

#### Option 2 (Advanced)

On the "Adjectives Describe Nouns" (Option 2) page, your child must first think of nouns that relate to the heroes from this lesson. Then he will think of one adjective to describe each noun on the list. Remind him that the adjectives should in some way relate to the person. Then ask him to select two nouns, along with their accompanying adjectives, and use them in a sentence about the person.

### Activity 3: Be an Imagineer

Often heroes and people who change the world are very creative people who come up with new ideas. Walt Disney thought of the character Mickey Mouse and the theme park Disney World, and he made the first animated full-length movie. People thought he was crazy, but his ideas really did work.

Tell your child that the creative people at Disney are called imagineers (imaginative engineers). These people come up with creative ideas at the Disney Studios. Today your child is going to try his hand at being an imagineer by accomplishing one of the following tasks. Read the options aloud and let him select the one that sounds most interesting.

- ✓ Think of a new character for a Disney movie, draw a picture of the character, and briefly describe the character's personality and what the movie will be about.
- ✓ Invent a new ride or attraction for a Disney theme park. Briefly describe the ride or attraction and draw a picture of it or build a simple version of it using Legos, blocks, tinker toys, or any other building materials.
- ✓ The book suggests that the man, Walt Disney, is not given enough recognition at the theme parks. Follow the book's idea and design something for the park that can honor this American hero.

### **Wrapping Up**

Ask your child if he knows of any other modern-day heroes. Then ask him to describe what makes each one a hero.

### **Life Application**

Find a local hero that your child can meet and talk with. Help your child to think of a few questions he could ask the hero.

# Adjectives Describe Nouns

**Directions:** Think of adjectives to describe the nouns. Then write two sentences using nouns with their adjectives.

**Person**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mickey Mouse

\_\_\_\_\_ Walt Disney

**Place**

\_\_\_\_\_ *magical* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Florida

**Thing**

\_\_\_\_\_ Oscar

\_\_\_\_\_ movie

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Person**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jackie

\_\_\_\_\_ Joyner-Kersee

\_\_\_\_\_ star

**Place**

\_\_\_\_\_ Illinois

\_\_\_\_\_ California

**Thing**

\_\_\_\_\_ *exciting* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ television

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

# Adjectives Describe Nouns

**Directions:** Think of nouns in each of the categories and then an adjective to describe each. Then write two sentences using nouns with their adjectives.

Person

**WALT DISNEY**

Place

Thing

*magical*

*Disney World*

1.

2.

Person

**JACKIE JOYNER KERSEE**

Place

Thing

*exciting*

*sporting event*

1.

2.