

Catch Me If You Can



WILMA RUDOLPH

Study Guide

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Joanna Maddox a professional actress, singer, storyteller writes and performs dramatic portrayals of historical American women. She received a BFA in Drama from the University of Georgia. She has toured throughout the US and is an approved Touring Artist of the National Women=s History Project and Fulton County Arts Council=s School Arts Program. She has appeared in numerous national television and radio commercials, corporate videos and is a member of Screen Actor=s Guild and AFTRA.

Curriculum Connections

This program fits in with women=s history, social studies, sports and the units concerning physical fitness.

Program Objectives

- To tell the story of how Wilma Rudolph, an indomitable black woman with such high odds against her became a great Olympic champion.
- To gain a better understanding of our society by learning about the lives of exceptional women.
- To present a positive female role model.
- To show that perseverance can be the key to success when faced with major challenges.

Program Summary

Wilma Rudolph ran against the clock and against the odds. She was the twentieth of twenty-two children in her family. She was born with polio and was plagued with physical problems throughout her childhood. At the age of four she was left without the use of her left leg. By six, her leg was in a brace. She overcame these challenges, and in September 1958 she entered Tennessee State University and became a member of their famed Tiger Bells Track team. By the time she was sixteen, she was running in the Olympics- winning a bronze medal. At age 18, she was the mother of a child and it appeared that her athletic career was over. But instead two years later, she was again racing in the Olympic Games in Rome Italy. There Wilma Rudolph made history by becoming the first American woman to win 3 gold medals.

Vocabulary

Polio.....an acute infectious virus disease characterized by fever, motor paralysis often with permanent disability and deformity.

Scarlet fever.an acute contagious disease characterized by inflammation of the nose, throat and mouth

Hurdles..... an artificial barrier to leap over while running

Welfare.....receiving public assistance from the government

Segregation..to cause or force the separation of a group from the rest of society

Porter.....one employed to carry baggage for patrons at a hotel or a transportation terminal

Brace.....an appliance used to support a body part

Overview Of Art Form

The art forms demonstrated in this program are storytelling and dramatic art. Information presented in the narrative form is the information that will be remembered. Before television and radio people told stories and the ancient art of storytelling is making a comeback. Storytelling can be used to entertain, inspire, heal, encourage, and to pass down cultural history and information from generation to generation. Through stories people can connect, learn about and appreciate each other.

Pre & Post Activities

- Read one or several of the books from the resource guide.
- Write a biography on Wilma Rudolph and present to class.
- Watch the video entitled A Wilma Rudolph and talk about what drove her to succeed.
- Discuss what it feels like to be a positive role model and inspiration to others.
- Talk about what it is like to be the first to do something exceptional.
- Read about and discuss other black Americans who have broken the color barrier in a variety of professions.

Resources

Books

Wilma, the story of Wilma Rudolph

Wilma Rudolph : Olympic Champion

Wilma Rudolph

Wilma Rudolph

***Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph became
The World=s fastest Woman***

Long shots: they beat the odds

Extraordinary women athletes

Superstars of women=s track and field

Wilma Rudolph

Victoria Sherrow

Wayne Coffey

Tom Biracree

Kathleen Krull

Jay Jennings

Judy Hasday

Martha Wickham

Video Recording

Wilma Rudolph

Women gold medal winners

Suzanne Hansbury

Bud Greenspan

Websites

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory>