

CURRICULUM

Character Education, Language Arts

MATERIALS**FACT SHEET:** "Meet the Athletes"**NOTE CARDS****BIOGRAPHIES OF HEROES** from the school or public library or from the Internet

Everyday Heroes

Many Paralympians possess the characteristics of heroes! In this lesson, students will explore the concept of heroes and create a tribute to a hero of their choice.

Objectives: STUDENTS WILL

- ▶ Identify the characteristics of heroes and heroines.
- ▶ Learn about Paralympic athletes with similar characteristics.
- ▶ Create a tribute to a hero of their choice.

Introduction:

1. Define the concepts: hero, heroine, and heroism. Create a list of heroic characteristics and values.
2. Depending on the age of your students, either read the fact sheet "Meet the Athletes" aloud to your students, or have them read it to themselves.
3. Have students identify the heroic characteristics of each athlete.
4. As a class, create a list of people who are heroes and heroines.
5. Write all responses on individual note cards and then sort the cards into categories, e.g. television, sports, music, family, community member, every day hero etc.
6. Have students choose one hero or heroine they would like to pay tribute to. The students do not have to choose a Paralympic athlete, but you may want to encourage them to do so.



Activity:

Primary Grades

- ▶ Invite everyday or neighborhood heroes to school for a "Hero Party." Students will introduce their hero, present them with a small tribute and have refreshments.
- ▶ Draw a picture of a hero to add to a class "Hero Book."

Everyday Heroes *(continued)*

Intermediate Grades

- ▶ Create a short biographical sketch on a chosen hero. Sketches should include the following:
 - ▶ Accomplishments of their hero
 - ▶ Goals of their hero
 - ▶ Challenges their hero has overcome
 - ▶ Information such as date and place of birth, family and childhood facts. This is called biographical information.
- ▶ Write a tribute to a hero using information from the biographical sketch. A tribute can be anything that compliments the hero and highlights their accomplishments. Below are some tribute ideas:
 - ▶ A multimedia presentation using software such as KidPix, Hyperstudio, or PowerPoint
 - ▶ A poster or brochure
 - ▶ A speech or poem



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Extensions:

- ▶ **SOCIAL STUDIES** Identify and discuss historical or current national figures that display qualities of a hero
- ▶ **SCIENCE** Scientists are often viewed as heroes because of the discoveries they make. Identify scientists who have made contributions to society.
- ▶ **LANGUAGE ARTS** Encourage students to collect information and stories from newspapers and magazines about Paralympians. Identify events and athletes that display heroic characteristics.

Internet Resources:

1. GALLERY OF ACHIEVEMENT.

<http://www.achievement.org/>

Students can read about more heroes in the Hall of Perseverance

2. MYHERO WEB PAGE.

<http://www.myhero.com/home.asp>

Divide students into small groups and have each group select a category (artists, explorers, peacemakers, etc.) After reading 2-3 of the hero profiles in their category, have students list some of the characteristics of the heroes. As a whole class, determine those characteristics that are most common.