EdRugby Online Educational Resource

LESSON: Rugby legends

THEME: Rugby heritage



DESCRIPTION:

Students explore the idea of Rugby legends. They identify the qualities of a legend, analyse and write a short biography of a Rugby legend.

OUTCOMES

This lesson contributes to the achievement of the following unit outcomes:

English

- With teacher guidance, identifies and discusses how linguistic structures and features work to shape readers' and viewers' understanding of texts.
- Identifies and discusses some of the relationships between ideas, information and events in visual texts designed for general viewing.
- Controls most linguistic structures and features of spoken language for interpreting meaning and developing and presenting ideas and information in familiar situations.

SUGGESTED TIME:

40 minutes

WHAT YOU NEED:

- class copies of student handouts (at the end of this lesson plan)
- additional resources related to each legend (optional)



PART 1 QUALITIES OF A LEGEND

- a. Introduce the lesson by explaining that you and the class are going to examine legends and the qualities of a legend.
- b. Distribute copies of the Student handout Legends.

Identify each of the following legends:

- Simpson and the donkey
- Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table
- Florence Nightingale
- Boadicea.

Ask the class to read about each legend. You may have additional materials, such as descriptions, that you wish to add to this list. Ask the class some questions about each legend. Prompt questions may include:

What is a legend?

How do people become legends?

How do people find out about legends?

What did the person do to become a legend?

c. Work with the class to brainstorm and record words to describe the qualities of each legend.

Possible responses include:

Legend	Qualities
Simpson and the donkey	courageous, strong, innovative
Boadicea	brave, strong, persistent
Florence Nightingale	innovative, determined, disciplined, smart
Arthur	strong, brave, smart

Conduct a brainstorm with the class to identify other words that could be used to describe the qualities of a legend. Some examples include:

- fast
- elusive
- talented

- cooperative
- inspiring
- committed.

Explain that the qualities associated with legends and modern-day heroes are also those associated with modern-day sporting heroes.

PART 2 RUGBY LEGENDS

- a. Distribute copies of the student handout Rugby legends. Draw the class's attention to the quote by Peter Fenton that presents his view of the spirit in playing the game of Rugby. Alternatively, use another poem or piece of writing. Work with the class to find out their views.
- b. Divide the class into small groups and get them to discuss why they agree or disagree with the quote. One member of each group is elected to report back to the class.

Ask the class the following questions:

Does a game like Rugby provide us with modern-day heroes?

Can you name some Rugby heroes?

c. Choose the Rugby players the students have already named or those they are likely to know about, such as David Campese or Nick Farr-Jones.

Ask the class the following question:

What qualities do these players have that make them legends?

Student responses may include:

- courage
- imagination
- perseverance
- ability to work within a team
- strength
- commitment.

PART 3 BIOGRAPHY OF A RUGBY LEGEND

a. Explain to the class that they will be reading a short biography of John Eales, who is widely considered to be a Rugby legend.

Ask the class the question:

What information would you expect to find in his biography?

Sample responses may include:

- the story of his life and career
- where and when he was born
- how many goals or tries he has scored.
- b. Distribute the John Eales biography to the class. Ask the class the questions:

What is the purpose of the biography?

What is it trying to do?

Who is the biography written for?

Sample responses may include:

- to describe his achievements as a Rugby player
- to convince the reader he is a legend
- to make him sound like a good Rugby player
- the biography is written for people who are interested in Rugby but don't know much about the achievements of John Eales.

Now ask the class to identify his achievements.

Sample responses might include:

- member of the Wallaby XVs that won the Rugby World Cup in 1991 and 1999.
- leader of both Australian and Queensland teams
- outstanding goal kicker
- supremacy in the line-out
- Australian captain from 1996
- fought back after severe shoulder injury.

Conduct a brainstorm of the descriptive words and phrases used to describe John Eales as a legend in the short biography.

Sample responses might include:

- greatest
- colossus
- supremacy
- inspiring
- outstanding
- fight back (fighter).
- d. Read through David Campese's achievements and distribute to the class.

Ask students to write a short biography of David Campese as a Rugby legend based on his achievements. Remind the class to use as many descriptive words as they can to emphasise his achievements as a Rugby player.

Alternatively, divide the class into groups and ask students to write a single sentence on one of his achievements. As they report back to the class, construct the short biography on the board.

PART 4 REFLECTION

Reflect on the role that legends play in our society. Explore the contributions made by sporting heroes and discuss their description as heroes and legends. Discuss some other legends and heroes. Are all legends based on actual people? Can you name some legends in other areas of life?

PART 5 EXTENSION

- Use the internet to research other legends, such as Ulysses, and analyse their qualities.
- Have students examine what attitudes and values they think are important when playing sport.
- Use the internet to search for sporting heroes and to identify their qualities.
- Why do we need heroes? Why are their qualities considered legendary?
- Discuss the purpose, audience and language features of other short biographies of Rugby legends.
- Ask students to watch some Rugby footage and report back on 'legendary' behaviour of any of the players.
- Compile a list of movies or novels which feature stories related to legends and heroes.
- Explore how women have been represented in history. Compile a list of significant female heroes.

STUDENT HANDOUT LEGENDS

Jack Simpson Kirkpatrick and the donkey

In 1914, Jack Simpson Kirkpatrick enlisted in the Australian army as John Simpson and he was to become Australia's most famous and best-loved military hero. He was accepted into the army as a field ambulance stretcher-bearer, a job associated with particularly strong men.

On April 25 1915 he landed at Anzac Cove with the rest of the Australian and New Zealand contingent. Heavy attacks and counter attacks ensued. On April 26, while carrying casualties back to the beach over his shoulder, he saw a donkey.

Simpson was a familiar part of the scene at Gallipoli, walking along next to his donkey, carrying wounded soldiers. He continued to defy extreme danger until May 19 1915, when a machine gun bullet hit him in his back. He rescued over 300 men down notorious terrain, under constant and ferocious attack.

Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table

As a child, Arthur was given to Ector by his father, Uther (the king) to be raised in secret. After Uther's death there was no king ruling all of England.

Merlin the magician had placed a sword in a stone, saying that whoever drew it out would be king. Arthur drew it out and became king. However, this led to a rebellion that Arthur was able to put down. He married Guinevere, whose father gave him the Round Table as a dowry. To avoid quarrelling between knights, Arthur offered them a place at the Round Table.

A magnificent reign over England followed. In a war against the Romans, Arthur defeated the Emperor Lucius and became emperor himself. Some said he never died, although he was badly wounded in his last battle on Salisbury Plain and his grave was supposedly discovered at Glastonbury, England, between 1154 and 1189.

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was a pioneer of nursing and she is well known for reforming hospital sanitation methods. This is particularly impressive given that most Victorian women of her age group did not attend universities or pursue professional careers.

Florence Nightingale was recruited for nursing service in Scutari during the Crimean War. While working at a hospital, she kept records and collected data, which she used as a tool to improve the sanitary practices of city and military practices. She developed the 'polar-are' diagram to illustrate the needless deaths caused by unsanitary conditions. Florence Nightingale's reforms led to a decline in the mortality rate within hospitals.

Boadicea

Boadicea was a queen of the Iceni Celts, who led her people to a glorious but bloody war against the Romans.

The Iceni people of East Anglia were conquered by the Romans and ruled by Emperor Claudius in AD 43. In AD 61, Boadicea's husband and the King of Iceni, Prasutagus, died. The emperor's soldiers beat Boadicea publicly, and her two daughters were raped. She led a revolt that was crushed by the Romans. However, for two years afterwards, Boadicea successfully pillaged the Roman settlements. She was considered one of Britain's greatest heroes.

STUDENT HANDOUT RUGBY LEGENDS

Peter Fenton quote

'There's a spirit in the Wallabies

Mere words cannot describe

It's as if they had descended from some legendary tribe

There's a kinship, a tradition

As in days so long since past

Of crusades, of knights in armour, of men before the mast.'

Peter Fenton

John Eales' biog

Former Australian Rugby Union captain John Eales is recognised across the Rugby world as one of the greatest forwards ever to play the game. A colossus of the Australian scrum throughout the 1990s, Eales was part of the Wallaby XVs that won the Rugby World Cup in 1991 and 1999. Apart from his supremacy in the lineout and inspiring leadership of both Australia and Queensland, Eales is also an outstanding goal kicker. He [was] the Australian captain [from] 1996, but had to fight back from a severe shoulder injury in '99 to achieve his goal of lifting the Rugby World Cup trophy later in that year.

(taken from www.monster.com.au (ninemsn career and jobseeking website)

David Campese's biog

Achievements:

- scored more tries than any other player
- played in three Rugby World Cup tournaments
- member of the Australian team that won the Rugby World Cup in 1991
- Australian Sevens team captain