

## EdRugby Online Educational Resource

---

### LESSON: Writing about players 1

LEVEL

Lower secondary

THEME: Rugby heritage

#### DESCRIPTION:

Students are introduced to the form of various player profiles. They explore the elements of the texts and compare with a short biographical text.

An ideal follow up to this lesson is *Writing about players 2*.

#### 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.
- Uses writing to develop familiar ideas, events and information.
- Controls most distinguishing linguistic structures and features of basic text types such as stories, procedures, reports and arguments.

#### SUGGESTED TIME:

2 x 50 minutes

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- class copies of student handouts (at the end of this lesson plan)
- highlighters or coloured pencils

**PART 1 TEXT ABOUT PLAYERS**

- a. Distribute student handouts Selena Worsely, Matt Giteau and Tom Richards.

Ask students to scan the handouts and note that all three texts give information about Rugby Union players. Ask students if they have heard of any of the players.

- b. Ask some of the following questions:

Where might the three texts have come from? Could any of the texts be found in books and if so what kind of book? Could they be published in newspapers or magazines or could they be found on the Internet for example.

What sort of person might have written them? Have they been written by, for instance, journalists, sports writers, academics or the players themselves?

Which texts are player profiles and which is an extract from a biography?

Which texts are more likely to be found on the Rugby website?

Why were the texts written?

Who might read these texts and why might they read them?

- c. Question students about their knowledge of profiles and biographies. Ask if they have read these types of texts before.

Explain that player profiles are information texts that can include a recount of the sporting highlights of a player's career. These profiles were both written in 2007. Matt Giteau's profile was published in the Wallabies 2007 Media Guide. Selena Worsely's profile has also been written for release to the media and fans.

Explain that a biography is the written story of a person's life. Biographies are usually written towards the end of a person's life or when he or she is dead. For example, Tom Richards was a famous Rugby player who played for Australia in Test matches in the early twentieth century and in the 1908 Olympics and died in 1935. His biography was written in 2001.

**PART 2 PLAYER PROFILES**

- a. Ask students to read Selena Worsely's player profile and answer the following questions about it:

What is the profile composed of? Students should note that it includes visual as well as written text, the written text giving information about the player and recounting some of her career highlights.

How is the information structured (ie what order is the information in)?

Is the text entirely factual?

Is there any information there that is not directly related to football?

Does the extract mention feelings or opinions?

Why hasn't the writer included more information about Selena Worsely's life or her football career?

What is the purpose of this text and who might find it useful?

Is the language formal or informal?

Ask students to give reasons for their answer.

- b. Explain that the purpose of this text has influenced its form. It is a short text, part information report and part factual recount, and it would be of interest to the media and to sports fans. It could be published in a magazine or official booklet or on the Rugby Union website. Students might mention that all members of the Wallaroos, the Australian Women's Rugby team, would have players' profiles written about them.
- c. Ask students to re-read the profile for Matt Giteau and think about its structure. Ask students to label its main features.
- d. Ask students to draw up a profile of the student next to them. The profile could be a sporting one, giving details of the student's sporting achievements, or it could give details about the student's hobby or other interest. Students should include the following features in their profile:
  - the student's name
  - an appropriate photograph or drawing
  - details such as the student's date of birth, height and weight
  - details of their sports club or hobby
  - their school and state
  - their best achievements.

Students should finish their profile with a short description, three to five sentences long, of the student's sporting career or the highlights of his or her hobby.

Remind students to use the jargon or special terms related to the student's sport or hobby in their profile.

**PART 3 EXTRACT FROM A BIOGRAPHY**

- a. Ask students to read the Student handout – Tom Richards and comment on its structure and language features. They should note that the extract:
- is about a football game and it gives a full description of a try scored by one particular player, Tom Richards
  - is part of a much longer text
  - includes long quotations about the try
  - doesn't give the type of information included in player profiles
  - uses more colourful language than the profiles.
- b. Compare the extract with the player profiles, noting its similarities and differences. Ask students to write a short report about their findings.

**PART 4 REFLECTION**

Reflect on the contributions made by the players profiled in the lesson. Explore the significance of player profiles and biographies in recording the contributions of players and the heritage and tradition of the game.

**PART 5 EXTENSION**

- Explore [www.rugby.com.au](http://www.rugby.com.au) or another sporting website and see if you can find any other player profiles.
- Write a short report describing the structure of a player profile, pointing out its similarities and differences to Selena Worsely's player profile.
- Visit your library and find a biography of a significant Australian.

## STUDENT HANDOUT SELENA WORSELY

Player's official team photograph is included. Notice she is in uniform and posing for the camera

Player's name comes first. The first fact given is her position

Facts about her physical details come next (eg height, weight and date of birth).

Facts about her club and state of origin come next.

Selena's international Rugby achievements are mentioned.

	<b>Name:</b>	Selena Worsely
	<b>Position:</b>	Flanker/Hooker
	<b>Height:</b>	169cm
	<b>Weight:</b>	76 kg
	<b>DOB:</b>	18th April 1975
	<b>Club:</b>	Easts
	<b>State:</b>	QLD
	<b>Tests:</b>	22
	<b>Test Points:</b>	30
	<b>Representative Honours:</b>	1994 (NZ); 1995 (NZ); 1996 (NZ); 1997 (USA,NZ); 1998 (Ire, Fra, Eng, Spa, Sco, NZ); 2001 (Eng1, Eng2); 2002 ( <b>Wal, NZ, USA, Sco</b> ); 2006 ( <b>SA, Fra, USA, USA, Ire</b> )  * bold matches Selena captained

Selena has represented the Wallaroo's in every one of their 22 tests since they played their first international encounter in 1994. A senior member of the team, she was captain in 2002 and again for the 2006 Womens Rugby World Cup in Canada. Selena plays openside flanker, and is a strong tackler and skillful ball runner. Currently in the 2007 Wallaroo shadow squad, she may still be selected for the Australian tour of New Zealand later this year.

Fuller information about her Rugby career is given, starting with Selena's importance as a senior player to the Wallaroos, the strength of her play, her possible selection this year and some other past international Rugby highlights.

**STUDENT HANDOUT MATT GITEAU**

	<b>Name:</b>	Matt Giteau
	<b>Position:</b>	Utility back
	<b>Height:</b>	178 cm
	<b>Weight:</b>	85kg
	<b>DOB:</b>	29 September 1982
	<b>Super 14 Team:</b>	BRUMBIES 01-02, FORCE 07-
	<b>Club:</b>	Queanbeyan (ACT)
	<b>State Caps:</b>	10
	<b>Super 12/14 Caps:</b>	52
	<b>Super 12/14 Points:</b>	222
	<b>Tests Caps:</b>	47
	<b>Test Points:</b>	219
	<b>Test Debut:</b>	2002 v England
	<b>Honours:</b>	ACT Schoolboys, ACT U 19s, Australian U 21s, Australian Sevens, ACT Brumbies, Australian Wallabies
	<b>Senior Tours:</b>	2002 – Argentina, UK & Europe

Blessed with supreme talent, **MATT GITEAU** has become a genuine superstar of the game and at just 24 is on the verge of his 50th Test cap. Rated among the world's best in his preferred No.12 jersey, he has also shone at flyhalf and scrumhalf at the Test level.

**2001** Represented the Australian Sevens and Under 21s teams and won a Colts Premiership with Easts in Canberra.

**2002** Was a surprise selection on the Spring Tour, having never played a Super 12 game and made his Test debut as a replacement against England at Twickenham.

**2003** Scored a hat trick of tries in his first Test start against Namibia and came on as a replacement in the Rugby World Cup Final. Also made his Super 12 debut for the Brumbies.

**2004** Established a place in the Wallaby starting XV, running on in the Number 12 jersey in 11 of the 12 matches and was also a key member of the victorious Brumbies Super 12 team.

**2005** Started the Test season with two man of the match performances against Samoa and Italy and played two matches in the Number 10 jersey.

**2006** Missed the opening three Tests of the winter with a knee injury, but announced his return with a two-try haul and man of the match performance in the record win over the Springboks in Brisbane. Made an experimental switch to scrumhalf during the Wallabies Spring Tour, starting all four Tests in the Number 9.

**2007** Played eight matches at flyhalf and four at inside centre for the Western Force, celebrated his 50th cap and went past 200 provincial points. He started in six Tests, the first of the year at scrumhalf before reverting to the Number 12.

## STUDENT HANDOUT TOM RICHARDS

In a one-sided romp, only interrupted by balls flying into the swimming pool, Australia scored seven tries to win 32-3 ...

There was one highlight. As F.B. Wilson of the Daily Mail reported: "Richard's try was a beauty. Coming along at full speed he jumped some four feet high, took the ball high above Jackett's head, and raced on between the posts, with no one, except three of his own side, within twenty yards of him. That was the plumb bit of work of the day ..." Booth was as impressed. "Richard's try was positively brilliant, and in it he showed his aptitude and speed. McCabe, being blocked in the running, punted to midfield over the opposing line of backs and the fiery Queenslander, racing up at top pace, took the ball on the full, and distancing all and sundry, scored under the cross-bar. It was rare football, and brought the house down. Cooees echoed across through the fog as the Blue score totted up"...

The entire extract is written about one game played.

The extract concentrates on the try scored in the game by famous Australian Rugby player Tom Richards.

Other writers' opinions about the try are quoted.

The author uses football jargon.

Note: Booth was a sports writer at the match  
Greg Growden, *Gold, Mud 'n' Guts, The Incredible Tom Richards*,  
Footballer, War Hero, Olympian, ABC Books, 2001, p 71