



Genre: Informational text (social studies)
Key vocabulary: Olympics, disaster, inspire, brace, degree, biography

Introduce the book and word list

Read the title with children. Explain that Wilma Rudolph was a real person who grew up over sixty years ago. Ask what it looks like Wilma is about to do in the picture. (*run in a race*) Explain that this book tells the true story of how Wilma worked very hard and eventually ran in races at the **Olympics**. Have children discuss what they know about the Olympics. If they don't mention it, point out that the Olympic Games are held every four years and the best athletes in the world compete in them.

Read the word list aloud with children. Explain the meanings of **disaster** (something terrible that happens), **inspire** (cause someone to do something good), and **brace** (a tool to hold something up when it's not strong enough).

Guide reading as needed

Listen to children read aloud individually or in small groups. Use the questions to check their understanding of what they just read.

Page 3 What does Wilma like to do when she is little? jump and run What happens that makes it impossible for her to run anymore? She gets an illness that makes one of her legs weak and twisted. (Connect events: Cause and effect)

Page 5 What does Wilma do to make her leg stronger? She uses it a lot. What is she then able to do at age 12? Take off her leg brace and run and jump like other kids. (Connect events: Cause and effect)

Page 7 What does Wilma dream she could be? the best runner ever How do we know she doesn't give up her dream after losing in a big contest? She tells herself that she will learn how to run faster. (Retell details; cite text evidence)

Page 9 How does Wilma's new coach help her? She learns to be a better, faster runner. Then what happens when Wilma is 16? She runs in the Olympics and wins a medal. (Connect events)

Page 10 What happens when Wilma trips in a hole? She twists her ankle. Why is this a terrible disaster? Wilma wanted to win the top prize at the Olympics, but that would be hard to do with a hurt ankle (Connect events; understand vocabulary)

Page 14 What happens at the Olympics when Wilma runs on her hurt ankle? She runs in three contests and wins the top medal each time. (Summarize events)

Page 15 What does Wilma go on to inspire kids to do? to not let problems stop them from trying, to believe in their dreams (Understand vocabulary; retell details)

Page 17 How are pages 16–17 different from the previous pages? They show real photographs of Wilma, rather than drawings. (Understand text features)

Page 18 When you graduate from college, you get a **degree** that says you completed the work. Which picture shows Wilma in her graduation cap and gown? first picture (Understand vocabulary)

Discuss the book after reading it

1. What kind of story is *Wilma Rudolph*? a true story about a real person This kind of book is called a **biography**. Why do you think the author chose to write a biography about Wilma Rudolph? Wilma was a great athlete with an interesting life. (Understand genre)
2. What was Wilma’s dream for her life? to be the fastest runner What lesson does the story of Wilma’s life teach about trying to reach a dream? Keep trying hard and don’t let problems get in the way. (Understand a story’s lesson)
3. What dreams do you have for your life? What do you think you might need to do to reach your dreams? Answers will vary, but children should recognize that they’ll need to work hard and have a positive attitude. (Connect text to self)

Focus on text structure: Sequence

Explain that a biography often tells about events in a person’s life in the order that they happened, beginning from childhood on through adulthood. Have children look through the pages of *Wilma Rudolph* as you help them summarize and sequence the real-

life events presented in the book.

Record the events in a chart that looks

Age	What happens in Wilma’s life
5	She gets sick, needs a leg brace.
12	She removes the leg brace.
12 to 15	She becomes a good runner. She loses in a big contest. She gets faster with help of coach.
16	She runs in Olympics, wins medal.
20	She runs in second Olympics, wins three medals.

Independent Activities

- Have children reread the book several times for fluency practice.
- On Practice Page 9, have children cut apart the descriptions of events from Wilma’s life and put them in the order that they happened.
- Have children draw and write to share three things they learned about Wilma Rudolph’s life from reading the book.

