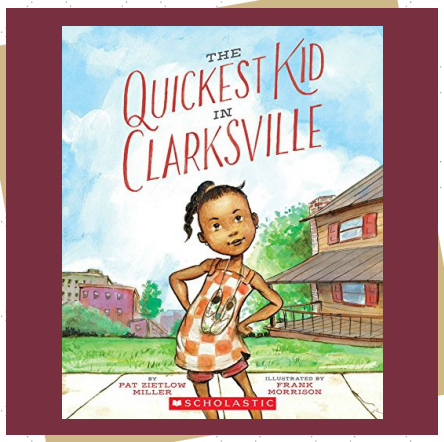


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

The Quickest Kid In Clarksville by Pat Zietlow Miller

Book Summary

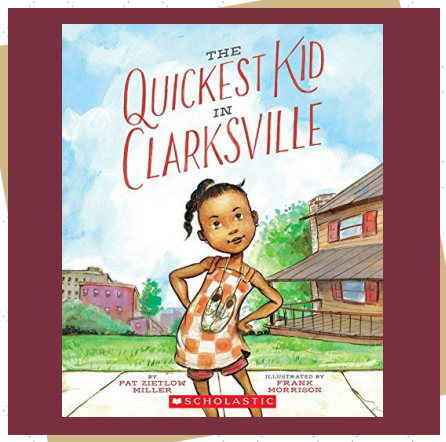
Everyone is preparing for Wilma Rudolph's upcoming hometown parade after winning three Olympic gold medals. Alta is the quickest kid in Clarksville, just like her hero, Wilma, used to be when she was growing up. All of a sudden the new girl in town, with brand new sneakers, challenges Alta to a race. Will Alta remain the quickest kid or will a new kid be crowned? Will the girls become friends or enemies?

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions what the story may be about.
- Talk about whether you or your child has ever been considered the quickest at any thing.
- Google the city of Clarksville, Tennessee to see where it is on a map. Discuss how far it is from where you live.

Target Vocabulary

•**Sashaying**: to walk in a slow, confident way that makes people notice you
•**Strut**: to walk in a confident, proud way
•**Glimmer**: to shine
•**Reckon**: to think or suppose something
•**Scalded**: to put something in hot liquid or steam for a brief time
•**Lunge**: to move or reach forward in a sudden, forceful way
•**Strut**: slow, awkward way of walking after an injury to a leg or foot
•**Scowl**: an expression on someone's face that shows anger or disapproval
•**Bulky**: large and difficult to carry
•**Clutch**: to hold onto someone or something tightly
•**Relay**: a race where each team member does a different part of the race



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- Alta pretended to be the fastest woman in the world. Who do you like pretending to be?
- Search for videos of Wilma Ruldoph on Youtube to see just how fast she was. Have a race with a family member to see who is the quickest.
- Imagine you were attending the parade for Wilma Rudolph. Create a sign that would stand out in the crowd.

Example Questions to Ask

- Why did the city have a parade for Wilma Rudolph?
- Why did Alta challenge Charmaine to a race?
- Alta said that she leaped after Charmaine like a scalded frog. What do you think she meant?
- What caused all of the girls to work together in the end?
- Describe the ways Alta and Charmaine were the same and ways they were different.
- Tell me about a time you had to work together with a classmate.
- Imagine a new child moved into your neighborhood. How would you introduce yourself?