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## Introduction

### **About the Magazine Articles**

The stories and activities found in *High Interest/Low Readability: Articles About Amazing Athletes* have been specifically designed for students who are reading below grade level; for students who have reading disabilities; and for students who are reluctant or discouraged readers.

The engaging stories are written from early-second grade through mid-third grade reading levels. Each story's specific reading level and word count can be found above the article title in the Table of Contents (page 4). This information should help guide the teacher in choosing articles that are appropriate for the individual needs of the students. (*Reading grade levels are not printed on any of the articles or on any of the reproducible activity pages.*)

The articles were created with large print. Struggling readers are often intimidated and easily overwhelmed by small print. The easy-to-read large font, picture clues, and sentence structure should help children feel more confident as they read the articles included in *Articles About Amazing Athletes*.

All of the articles use high-frequency words and essential vocabulary. A list of each article's high-frequency words, as well as the special words that are necessary for the article, are found on pages 60 – 61. Prior to reading a article, review the word lists and introduce and practice any unfamiliar words. Make flash cards of the new words and outline each letter with glitter glue to provide a tactile experience for the students. Draw a picture of the word on each card to help students visualize any new vocabulary.

### **About the Audio CD**

Each article is read aloud on the audio CD, beginning with a few seconds of introductory music. Following the music, the reader welcomes the listeners and says, "Today's magazine article is about . . ." That is the student's cue to listen. Each article's title and content is read exactly as it is printed on the student's copy of the magazine article.

For many struggling readers, being able to listen to the story first can be extremely beneficial. Knowing the story's content ahead of time provides students with the opportunity to use context clues to help decode words and to interpret the meaning of the story. For other students, being able to track the text as they listen to the words allows for a multi-sensory experience. Students can hear the words; can see the words; and can touch each word as they follow along, listening as each magazine article is read.

### **About the Activity Pages**

Paper and pencil tasks are often "not fun" for struggling readers. The majority of the reproducible activity pages in this book are divided into two different activities per page. The teacher may choose to assign both activities at once. The diversity of the two different activities should encourage children to finish the page without becoming bored or frustrated. The teacher may also choose to cut the page in half and assign each activity at a different time.

Coloring, drawing, solving puzzles, and cutting and pasting activities have been included. These types of activities reinforce a wide range of reading skills and are often viewed as "more fun" by students.

In short, *High Interest/Low Readability: Articles About Amazing Athletes* will provide your students with a complete reading experience.