



BOSS LADIES



—OF— SPORT



PHILLIP MARSDEN



TEACHERS RESOURCES



Teachers Resources by Robyn Sheahan-Bright

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INTRODUCTION

'Boss ladies' unite in this illustrated celebration of inspiring and empowered female athletes – from Australian legends Sam Kerr, Ash Barty and Ariarne Titmus to international superstars like Ruby Tui, Simone Biles, Naomi Osaka and the Williams sisters.

You have to believe in yourself when no one else does – that makes you a winner right there. Venus Williams

Every 'boss lady' was once a little kid with a huge dream. Let their trials and triumphs inspire you to work hard at what you love, and to believe in yourself, no matter whether you win or lose.

I play the best and have the most fun and success when I'm just being me. Sam Kerr

Phillip Marsden was inspired to write and illustrate this book while watching the achievements of stunningly successful women athletes at the Tokyo Olympics. He uses his trademark cartoon artwork and his colloquial style to introduce young readers to the extraordinary achievements of women in sport. This is an inventively original work which offers readers a brief introduction to the powerful women in sport who have demonstrated that women can achieve whatever they set their minds to, even when there are obstacles which might have prevented that achievement.

THEMES & CURRICULUM TOPICS

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This topic relates to Health and Physical Education <<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/health-and-physical-education/>>

WOMEN IN SPORT

DISCUSSION POINT: Women have achieved a great deal in many sports. What are the obstacles which might deter a woman from excelling in a chosen sport? (Some of the profiles included in this book give some idea of how they have overcome such deterrents.)

DISCUSSION POINT: Are there sports which still present obstacles to women's participation?

DISCUSSION POINT: Research the achievements of any of the female athletes in this book.

DISCUSSION POINT: Discuss some of the inspirational quotes included on each page which give the reader an idea of what motivates these star athletes.

DISCUSSION POINT: Are female athletes encouraged to participate in all sports in your school?

DISCUSSION POINT: Do women achieve better when they are not competing against male athletes?

DISCUSSION POINT: Women in any field of activity or research face obstacles. Watch National US Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, deliver her poem 'The Way Forward' and discuss the inspiration such poetry might offer to young women. [See **Bibliography**.]

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)

Several themes and topics are relevant to the following Curriculum Area: <<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/humanities-and-social-sciences/hass/>>

Investigate the following sub-topics using skills developed in this Curriculum Area relating to **INQUIRY AND SKILLS** and **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**:

1. *Develop Methodology and Research Using Primary and Secondary Sources;*
2. *Synthesise and Evaluate Evidence;*
3. *Present Evidence;*
4. *Develop Alternatives.*

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

DISCUSSION POINT: Gender inequity, disability, abuse, racial prejudice, intrusive media attention, mental anxiety and other factors can all take their toll on an athlete, and these women have demonstrated how they have overcome such adversity. Which woman did you admire most, and why?

DISCUSSION POINT: Some of the women featured in this book are young teenagers. What hurdles might someone so young confront, when endeavouring to make a career as a professional athlete?

ACTIVISM

DISCUSSION POINT: Many of the women featured in this book have used their platform as a famous athlete to advocate for various rights such as

disability, LGBT+, refugees, environmental issues, and of course, women's rights to equality. Follow the campaign of one of these women, and how she has used her success to leverage community action.

DISCUSSION POINT: Some people can be quite negative about sportspeople using their fame as a social justice platform. Why are they averse to sportspeople expressing their opinions in this way?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

This is relevant to the following Curriculum Area:

<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/english/>>

The text of this book might be studied in relation to the following aspects:

ACTIVITY: Each page is dedicated to a female athlete and contains an inspirational quote followed by a brief entry describing the athlete's achievements in Phillip Marsden's voice. Write an expository text about another female athlete you admire in the same format and style Phillip Marsden uses in this book; Marsden employs humour in several of the entries and his tone of voice is engagingly colloquial. Possible athletes to research and write about might be Evonne Goolagong Cawley, Michelle Payne, Shane Gould, Martina Navratilova, Layne Beachley, Sally Pearson, Cathy Freeman. [See also **Worksheet 3.**]

ACTIVITY: Write **poems** to celebrate female athletes' performances. [See **Worksheet 2.**]

ACTIVITY: Test your students' **comprehension** by asking them questions about the written and visual text. [See also **Worksheet 3.** below.]

VISUAL LITERACY

This is relevant to the following Curriculum Area:

<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/the-arts/visual-arts/>>

The visual text of a book combines with the written text to tell the story using the various parts of the book's design and illustrations, as explored below:

ACTIVITY: The **cover** of a book is an important part of its message. Back and front covers contain a text circle with images of women playing sport surrounding it. Create a different cover for this book.

ACTIVITY: The **endpapers** are white silhouettes on two shades of a blue background. Using an even grid, create your own images to decorate alternative endpapers for this book.

DISCUSSION POINT: The **title page** contains the titles in a decorative typeface. What impression does this title page give to the reader?

DISCUSSION POINT: The **format** of the book is uniform in the **layout of internal pages**. How does this design of the book influence your reading of it?

ACTIVITY: The **medium** of illustration employed is cartoon/comic in style. (There is even a self-portrait of Phillip Marsden on the second page!) Invite students to draw a cartoon image of the athlete described in the writing exercise above. The images in this book depict the athlete with her national flag behind her so add that detail as well. Collate all the entries written and illustrated by the class and you will have your own *Boss Ladies of Sport* book! Create a classroom display using all the images. [See also **Worksheet 1**. below.] [See **Bibliography**.]

CREATIVE ARTS

There are many creative activities suggested by this text:

1. **Create a slogan** about allowing women more access to sport.
2. **Create a postcard** carrying this slogan and an image promoting women in sport.
3. **Create a poster** using this slogan.
4. **Create a short script for an advertising campaign** about women's access to sport.
5. **Create a book trailer** to promote this book. [See **Bibliography**.]

Learning Technologies

Activity: Research the author/illustrator online. [See **Bibliography**.]

MATHEMATICS

ACTIVITY: Have fun counting things in this text, on the endpapers, and in the internal pages of the book.

FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH

- Phillip Marsden is a multi-talented artist. Try to discover information about his other work online.
- Students might research this book in comparison to reading other books about women in sport such as those listed in the **Bibliography**.
- Investigate any other topic not covered in these notes which you consider is suggested by this text.

CONCLUSION

This is a vibrantly illustrated work of non-fiction which provides information in a very accessible and entertaining style. The comic illustrations and the accessible and casual writing style will engage students and encourage them to discover more about these contemporary heroes.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Phillip Marsden is a Sydney-based full-time illustrator from Liverpool, England. He is a regular contributor to magazines such as *Kerrang*, *NME* and *Elle*, has illustrated books such as *Kicking Goals* (with Adam Goodes), *I Can't Remember the Title But the Cover Is Blue* by Elias Greig, *A Boy Called Bob* by Bob Murphy and Tony Wilson and *A Footy Girl's Guide to the Stars of 2017* by Nicole Hayes and Alicia Sometimes. Phillip regularly hosts drawing workshops for kids.

Visit his website for further information: <https://www.phillipmarsden.com/>



WORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET 1. TENNIS PLAYER DRAWING

Finish this image by filling in the background and completing the drawing of the woman.



WORKSHEET 2. POEM

A. Write a simple Acrostic poem using the letters in Ash Barty.

**A
S
H
B
A
R
T
Y**

B. Write a Haiku poem about Quan Hongchan.

C. Write a Cinquain poem about Simone Biles.

WORKSHEET 3. QUIZ

1. How many silhouetted figures are on the endpapers?
2. Who was the youngest person who featured in this book?
3. Who is currently ranked No 1 in the world, in tennis?
4. Who is this woman's hero and mentor?
5. Who is the only female athlete to do the 'double-double' ie Win a Gold Medal in both the 100 metre and 200 metre race at two consecutive Olympics?
6. Who holds the most medals of any female swimmer ever?
7. Which Olympic wheelchair sprinter has had a Barbie Doll named after her?
8. Who was Uganda's first ever female Olympic medal winner?
9. Who scored a perfect score of 10 in two of her dives at the Tokyo Olympics?



Answers: 1. Sixteen on one side and fifteen on the other, with a total of thirty-one. 2. Japanese skateboarding champion, thirteen-year-old Momiji Nishiya. 3. Australian, Ash Barty. 4. Evonne Goolagong Cawley. 5. Jamaican athlete, Elaine Thompson-Herah. 6. American, Katie Ledecky. 7. Australian, Madison de Rosario. 8. Peruth Chemutai. 9. Chinese, Quan Hongchan.

WORKSHEET 4. ALPHABET OF SPORTSWOMEN

NAME	SPORT	FACT
A		
B		
C		
D		
Evert, Chris	Tennis	She won 18 Grand Slam championships and three doubles titles.
F		
G		
H		
I		
J		
K		
Lassila, Lydia	Aerial Skiing	Following the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games, she became Australia's first female winter athlete to compete at five Games.
M		
N		
O		
Payne, Michelle	Horse-riding	On 3 November 2015 she won the Melbourne Cup riding Prince of Penzance, the first female jockey to win the race in its 155 year history.
Q		
S		
T		
U		
V		
W		
X		
Y		
Z		

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE NOTES

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright AM operates justified text writing and publishing consultancy services, and is widely published on children's literature, publishing history and Australian fiction. In 2011 she was the recipient of the CBCA (Qld Branch) Dame Annabelle Rankin Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Queensland, in 2012 the CBCA Nan Chauncy Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Australia, and in 2014, the QWC's Johnno Award. In 2021 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

