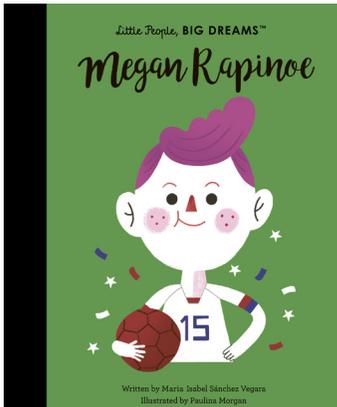


Little People, BIG DREAMS™

TEACHERS' GUIDE



Megan Rapinoe

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

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\$15.99 US/\$18.99 CAN

ISBN: 9780711257832

Ages: 4 to 8 (Grades: PreK to 2)

32 pages

Hardcover, 7.6 x 9.5 inches

www.littlepeoplebigdreams.com



LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Megan Rapinoe grew up in California as part of a large sports-loving family, including her twin sister Rachael. She developed a love of soccer early and went on to play in college and as a professional in the World Cup and Olympics, even winning a gold medal! Megan also believes in and fights for equal treatment for everyone. She believes everyone should be celebrated for being themselves, and for that, we celebrate her.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. Why is Megan Rapinoe a dreamer we should know?
2. Who helped Megan discover her love of soccer?
3. What are some of the teams on which Megan played?
4. What did Megan do for the first time in history during the Olympics?
5. Despite all of her awards on the field, what was the most important thing to Megan off the field?

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. The book says that “life was double the fun” for Megan and her twin sister (p. 3). Ask the students if they think it would be fun to have a twin? If they have a sibling, what kinds of things do you like to do together for fun?
2. Megan’s mom drove her and her sister many hours to their training when they were in high school (p. 8). Why do the students think she worked so hard to play soccer? If there are young athletes in your classroom, invite them to share their experiences with practices, training, games, and other commitments to their sports.
3. When Megan said she wanted to be an example for other gay athletes (p. 10), what did she mean? How did she set that example throughout her life for not just other gay athletes but for everyone?

4. Megan decided to be honest about who she was as a person, and this helped her to play her best (p. 11). Ask the students what is one thing about themselves that they are really proud of. How does it help them be their best?
5. The camp for kids that Megan and her sister started focused on working hard and having fun (p. 14). Would the students want to go to the camp? Why or why not?
6. Megan is well-known for her short, purple hairstyle. It is one way she shows that she is being truly herself. Ask the students--how do you express yourself? It can be something they're doing now or something they hope to do in the future.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Megan had a twin sister, Rachael, and they loved to do things the same. Partner students up and have them share facts about themselves in order to find similarities--maybe they both have brothers or dogs; maybe they both love to eat cookies; maybe they both love the color blue.
2. Sports Day: Megan and her sister loved playing sports of all kinds--basketball, hockey, and soccer (p. 4). Set up stations in the gym or outdoors for students to try out the different sports that Megan liked to play as a child. Demonstrate the different equipment used in each and the rules for playing before allowing the students to try out each sport. Reach out to the P.E. teacher in your school for support and/or equipment if needed. Once back in the classroom, have the students vote on their favorite sport and explain why they liked it.
3. On page 10, Megan is pictured in front of a rainbow as she announced that she is gay. The rainbow flag symbolizes hope and acceptance. Have the students draw their own rainbow and write a hope they have on each color band.
4. Megan was a part of the U.S. Women's Soccer team who won the gold medal at the London Olympics in 2012 (p. 16). Have the students design a gold medal for someone in their life and label it with what that person is the best at. Depending on the dynamics of your class, you could assign a classmate to each student and have them design the medals for each other as a way to recognize one another.
5. At the World Cup in 2019, Megan won the Golden Boot for being the top scorer and the Golden Ball for being the best player (p. 13). Have the students design their own Golden award for themselves for something they think they are the best at. For example, it could be a Golden Book if they're a great reader or a Golden Smiley Face if they're a great friend. Provide a variety of art materials (including air-dry clay if you'd like students to be able to create 3D awards similar in appearance to Megan's) so that students can be creative with how they design and create their awards.

