

Play with a Purpose

Minisode 2: The Undefeated

Grown-Up Guide

Book/Material

The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander; Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Concepts

Vocabulary Acquisition; Historical Figures; Allusions

Words to Know:

Undefeated; Allusion; prefix

Main Activity

Undefeated is filled with many multi-syllable words that students may have not encountered previously. This is a good chance to help children expand their vocabulary. Make a list ahead of time of some of the difficult words that students may not know (for older students, have them write down words they don't know during the reading – spelling doesn't matter). List may include words such as: unforgettable, hurtled, necessary, undeniable, scored, righteous, unflappable. Try to keep the list to no more than 10 – shorter for younger students. Discuss with the class the meanings of the words – watch the video again and pause when the word occurs to help them understand the contextual meaning (students can guess what they mean from context). Have students practice handwriting, phonetics, and understanding by having them say the word out loud and copying it down onto their own paper. Many of the words have the same **prefix** “un”. Discuss the meaning of this prefix, how it affects the meaning of the word, and why the author may have chosen to include it.



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Follow Up/ Extension

1. Research some of the historical figures listed – pick an occupation similar among multiple people presented in the book (artist, athlete, musician, activist, etc.). Share with students the work that made these people famous.
2. Read another book by Kwame Alexander (see additional Resources).

Additional Resources

1. More info on the Caldecott Medal:
<https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecott>
2. Another Children's book by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Daniel Miyares. Encourages a love of reading:
Surf's Up ISBN: 0735842205
3. Short quick videos from Kwame Alexander to teach and learn poetry from home:
<https://www.teachercreatedmaterials.com/kwame-poetry/>

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qp9BQCOCeQU>



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