

Canadian Celebrity Readers

Famous Female Athletes

Grades 4-8

Written by Ruth Solski
Illustrated by Dan Day

About the author:

Ruth Solski was an educator for 30 years. She has written many educational resources over the years and is the founder of S&S Learning Materials. As a writer, her main goal is to provide teachers with a useful tool they can implement in their classrooms to bring the joy of learning to children.

ISBN: 978-1-55495-007-2

Copyright 2009

All Rights Reserved * Printed in Canada

Published in Canada by:
S&S Learning Materials
15 Dairy Avenue
Napanea, Ontario
K7R 1M4
www.sslearning.com

Permission to Reproduce

Permission is granted to the individual teacher who purchases one copy of this book to reproduce the student activity material for use in his/her classroom only. Reproduction of these materials for an entire school or for a school system, or for other colleagues or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher. "We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) for this project."

Canadian Celebrity Readers

Famous Female Athletes

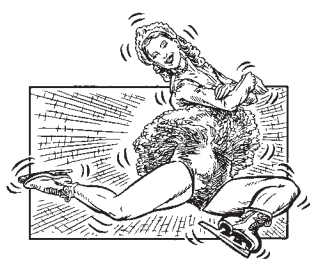
Table of Contents

At A Glance™	2
About This Book.....	4

Biographies and Worksheets:

Scott, Burka, Magnussen, Manley	5
Cindy Klassen	7
Sandra Schmirler	9
Myriam Bédard	11
Karen Cockburn	13
Elaine Tanner	15
Chantal Petitclerc.....	17
Silken Lauman	19
Perdita Felicien	21
Nancy Greene.....	23
Beckie Scott.....	25
Abigail (Abby) Hoffman	27
Hayley Wickenheiser	29
Marnie McBean and Kathleen Heddle	31
Catriona Le May Doan.....	33
Beverly Boys and Sylvie Bernier.....	35
Vickie Keith	37
Carolyn Waldo and Michelle Cameron	39
Bobbie Rosenfeld	41
Beth Underhill	43
Answer Key.....	46

One of Canada's most famous and sensational figure skating champions of the 20th century was Barbara Ann Scott. Her wonderful performances, girlish beauty, and sparkling personality captured the hearts of fans around the world. At the age of 11, Scott defeated skaters twice her age to become the youngest junior champion in Canadian history. When she was 15, Scott claimed the Senior Ladies Championship and the next year won the North American Championships.



In 1947, at the age of 18, Scott won the European Championships and was the first Canadian to do so. Several weeks later, she won the world championships, which brought greater

international recognition to Canadian skaters. In 1948, Scott had her most glorious year. She reclaimed her world title and at the Olympic Games, she was first in school figures and gave a dazzling performance on an ice surface that had many imperfections, winning Canada's first Olympic gold medal in figure skating.



During the sixties, a figure skating dynamo by the name of Petra Burka was making a statement on the ice. In 1962, when she was 15 years old, Petra became Canada's Junior Ladies Champion and placed fourth at the World's Championship in Prague. From 1964 to 1966, Petra was Canada's reigning Senior Ladies Champion. At the 1964 Olympic Games in Innsbruck,

Petra skated a dazzling performance and won the bronze medal. In 1965, she became a triple crown champion winning the Canadian, North American and World Figure Skating Championships. During The World Championship in Colorado, Petra was the first woman to complete a triple Salchow jump in competition.

Canada's next figure skating inspiration was a bright and vivacious girl from Vancouver by the name of Karen Magnussen. She became Junior Champion in 1965 and was Canada's reigning Senior Champion from 1968 to 1973. During the year of 1971, Karen won the championship crown for the last North American Championships.



At the Olympic Games in Japan in 1972, she captured the hearts of Canadians when she won the silver medal of these games. In 1973, Karen skated a spectacular performance at the World Championships in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia and became the third Canadian woman to be crowned World Figure Skating Champion.

During the 1980's, a petite, bubbly blonde by the name of Liz Manley from Ottawa exhibited grace, speed, and incredible jumping ability on the ice. In 1979, while still a junior, Liz was the first Canadian woman to land a triple jump combination, a triple Salchow followed by a double loop. In 1981, Liz won the bronze medal in the senior division and for the following years of 1985, 1987 and 1988, she was Canadian Champion.



The highlight of Liz's skating career came in 1988 at the Calgary Olympics. Liz had experienced some difficult times during her skating career and no one expected her to be a contender for a medal. She was sitting in third place after her school figures and short program. Her electrifying performance in her long program, which included five triple jumps, captured her a silver medal and made her a national celebrity. ★



Scott, Burka, Magnussen, Manley

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Skills

Name that Skater! On the line provided record the name of the figure skater that answers each question.

Which female skater:

- was known for her incredible jumping ability?

- was the last woman to win the 1971 North American Championships?

- was the youngest Junior Ladies Champion ever in Canadian history?

- was the first woman to complete a triple Salchow jump during a competition?

- won Canada's first Olympic gold medal in figure skating?

- won an unexpected medal at the Calgary Winter Olympics?

- was the third Canadian woman to become a world champion?

- opened the international door for Canadian skaters?

- was the first Canadian woman to land a triple jump combination?

- was a triple crown champion?

Vocabulary Skills

A. Match each word in the box to its meaning. Record the word on the line provided.

celebrity	contender	spectacular
dynamo	dazzling	vivacious
imperfections	sensational	

- causing excitement _____
- to inspire admiration _____
- having flaws or defects _____
- having surplus energy _____
- full of life; lively _____
- exciting qualities _____
- competitor; challenger _____
- a famous person _____

B. Underline the nouns and circle the adjectives in each sentence.

- Her wonderful performances, girlish beauty, and sparking personality captured the hearts of fans around the world.
- Karen Magnussen was a bright and vivacious girl from Vancouver.

C. Record the base word for each of the following words on the lines provided.

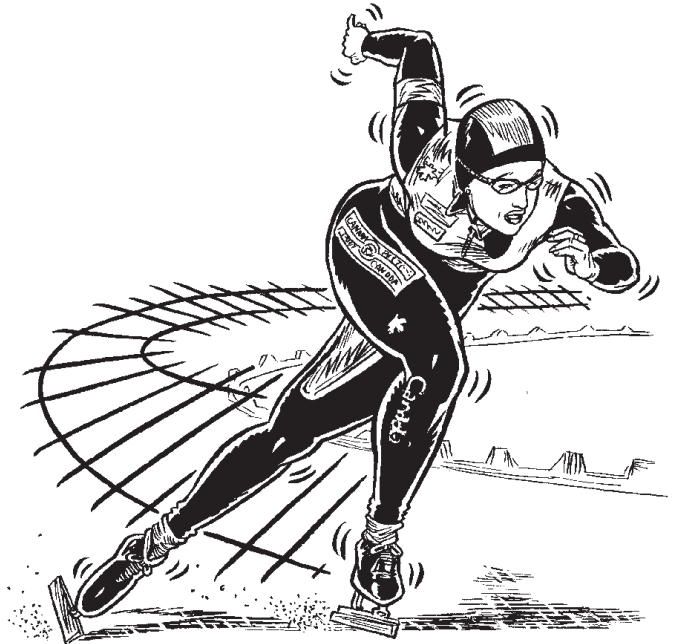
- contender _____
- national _____
- sensational _____
- wonderful _____
- girlish _____
- dazzling _____
- imperfections _____

Cindy Klassen is a Canadian speed skater and Canada's most decorated Olympian. At the age of two, Cindy was introduced to hockey by her father. When she was five, she began playing hockey and soccer with local clubs. During high school, Cindy was an avid athlete who tried to squeeze in as many sports as she could. Although she had a wide variety of interests, her main focus was hockey.

Cindy played boys' hockey during most of her life and reached the double and triple A levels in her home province of Alberta. She thrived on the intense training that she received from the hockey coaches. Her goal was to play on the women's hockey team for Canada at the Olympics in 1998. During 1995, Cindy played on Manitoba's female hockey team and when she reached the age of 16, she switched to Senior Women's hockey and was chosen to play on the Junior National Team at Lake Placid in the United States in 1996. Things were moving along as she hoped until 1997, when she was not selected for the 1998 Olympic Women's Hockey Team.

With her Olympic dream destroyed Cindy was devastated and depressed. What was she to do now as she did not have an alternate plan? Her parents encouraged her to take up speed skating since her skating skills were so strong. Her immediate reaction was not a positive one. When Cindy was younger, she and some of her hockey friends had made fun of the long blades and skin tight outfits of speed skaters. After giving her parents' suggestion some thought, Cindy decided to give speed skating a try. Off she went to the Susan Auch Oval thinking speed skating would be a breeze. Much to her surprise, Cindy found it was harder to do than it looked but with the encouragement of the various coaches, Cindy rapidly improved.

In a year, Cindy was on the roster for the Manitoba long-track team that was to compete at the Canada Winter Games in 1999, in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. Unfortunately, the ice melted and the long-track events never took place. Cindy did compete at various Canada Cup events and earned a spot on the Junior National Team in February of 1999. At this competition, she won the 1000 meter race and took third place in the 500 meter race.



In the year 2000, Cindy made the National Team and in 2001, she earned three top 10 finishes at the World Single Distance Championships, including a bronze in the 1500 meter race. In 2002, Cindy collected a bronze medal in the 3000 meter race as well as fourth place finishes in the 1500 meter and the 5000 meter races.

Cindy was flying high and on her way until one day during training, she experienced a dreadful mishap. While rounding a corner, Cindy crashed into a group of skaters. Her right arm was cut from her wrist to the elbow by a skater's blade. It sliced through 12 tendons, a nerve, and a major artery. Everyone felt that Cindy's skating season was over but two months later, she was training again with a splint on her arm. Cindy's 2004 to 2005 season was very successful. She won the World Cup title in the 1500 meter as well as first place in the 1500 meter and 3000 meter at the World Single Distance Championships.

At the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, Cindy won a bronze medal in the 3000 meter, a silver in the 1000 meter as well as a team silver in the Pursuit. She struck gold in the 1500 meter race which was her specialty. In her most dreaded race the 5000 meter she won a bronze.

Cindy Klassen will go down in the Canadian sporting records as the first Canadian Olympian to win five medals in one Olympic Games and the only Canadian with six Olympic medals. ★



Cindy Klassen

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Skills

Locate a sentence in the biography that proves each of the following statements about Cindy Klassen are true. Record the first six words of the sentence on the line provided.

1. Cindy Klassen had a goal in mind while she played boys' hockey.

2. Cindy found out that long range plans don't always come true.

3. Cindy's parents were supportive and tried to help her?

4. Cindy's negative response to her parents' suggestion was for a reason.

5. Speed skating is a difficult sport.

6. Cindy's strong skating skills and her eagerness to work helped her speed skating to move quickly.

7. An unfortunate accident almost ended Cindy's speed skating career.

8. Cindy Klassen is a determined and feisty athlete.

9. Cindy Klassen is Canada's most decorated Olympic athlete.

Vocabulary Skills

A. Use the following pairs of antonyms to complete each sentence.

most - least	happy - depressed
strong - weak	easy - difficult
positive - negative	

1. Cindy's reaction to her parents' suggestion went from _____ to _____.
2. Although speedskating looked _____ to do, Cindy found it _____ at first.
3. Cindy was _____ with her hockey career's direction but became _____ when she didn't make the Olympic Women's Team.
4. Cindy's skating skills were _____ but her speedskating style was _____ at first.
5. She won gold in her _____ favourite race and bronze in her _____ favourite race.

B. Underline the words that best describe Cindy Klassen's personality.

energetic	lazy	loses interest
avid athlete	courageous	fearless
weak	able to focus	positive
insecure	disinterested	fickle
goal oriented	successful	hardworking
thinker	fighter	

Research Skills

Using the Internet or the resource centre, research to find out the answers to the following questions.

1. What is speedskating?
2. What are the different types of speedskating?