Cambridge Discovery Education™ INTERACTIVE READERS

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YOUNG AND AMAZING TEENS AT THE TOP



Simon Beaver





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Contents

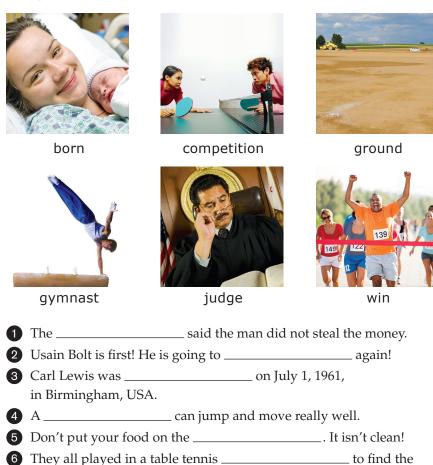
Refere You Boad, Cat Boadyl	
Before You Read: Get Ready!	4
CHAPTER 1 The Girl That Everybody Loved	6
CHAPTER 2 Catching the Wind	8
CHAPTER 3 A Life at Sea	10
CHAPTER 4 Money for Jam	<mark>12</mark>
CHAPTER 5 Making Movies	<mark>14</mark>
CHAPTER 6 If You Can't Walk, Drive	<mark>16</mark>
CHAPTER 7 Dancing to the Top	18
CHAPTER 8 What Do You Think?	20
After You Read	22
Answer Key	24
Glossary	

Before You Read: Get Ready!

Some people do great things – even when they are young. You are going to read about some excellent teenagers in this book.

Words to Know

Complete the sentences with the correct words.



best player.

Words to Know

Read the paragraph. Then complete the sentences with the correct highlighted words.

Dev and Tania came for my birthday – my special day. We wanted to watch TV, but there was no electricity. We walked on the beach, but then it started raining, so we had to turn and come back. After they left, I was alone. I looked outside at the beach and sea. "It's very quiet," I said. Then I thought, "Why am I talking to myself? Am I crazy?" It wasn't my best birthday.

U	You ate grass? That's a	thing to do!
2	There's no	! The food in the refrigerator is
	going to get warm!	

- 3 John and Kate are very ______ people. They're the best friends I have.
- 4 It's behind you. _____ around, and you can see it.
- **5** Wait! I'm making ______ a sandwich first, and I'm going to come with you.
- 6 There is a ______ between France and England.
- 7 You can't do it ______. You need somebody to help you.





AT THE AGE OF 17, OLGA KORBUT WAS THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS GYMNAST. SHE TAUGHT PEOPLE TO LOOK AT THE SPORT DIFFERENTLY.

Before 1972, not many people watched gymnastics. But a young girl from Belarus in the Soviet Union¹ changed that.

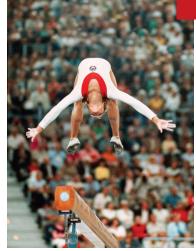
Olga Korbut started learning gymnastics when she was only eight. It was very difficult. She had to work hard for very long hours. But she was a fantastic student.

In 1972, Olga went to the Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. She was 17, but she was very small and thin,² and she looked like a child. People all over the world watched when she danced on the beam.

¹**Soviet Union:** a group of countries in Europe and Asia from 1922 to 1991 ²**thin:** not fat

Then she jumped and did a back somersault. Her legs went up above her head – and came down behind her! Without using her arms! And she didn't fall, she stayed on the beam!

Everybody loved Olga. No other gymnasts could do what she did. Before, people thought that Soviet gymnasts did not show how they felt.



Olga doing a back somersault on the beam

But when Olga did something wrong, she cried!³ They loved her because of that, too.

In Munich, Olga was first in three competitions. She was second in another. Some people were angry with the judges. They thought that she was best in that competition, too!

Olga was a great example. In 1972, many little girls saw her and wanted to be gymnasts, too. She made the sport **popular**!



Eyes on the Olympics

Watch the video and learn about the life of Chinese gymnasts today. What are the good and bad things about that life?

³ cry: when water comes from your eyes