

The Quickest Kid in Clarksville

by Pat Zietlow Miller • illustrations by Frank Morrison

Enjoy the Book Together

- While reading the book, have your child chant “Wil-Ma Ru-Dolph” with you each time you read it. Have you ever been to a parade or a sporting event with your child where you cheered for someone?
- The story is told from Alta’s perspective. Imagine Charmaine was telling the same story. What would be different about her version? What would be the same?

Make Personal Connections

- Ask your child about his or her hero. Why does he or she admire this person?
- At the beginning of the book, Alta and Charmaine are competitive. When they are trying to get to the parade to see Wilma, however, they must work together as a team in order to get there in time. Ask your child: *Have you ever worked with someone else to do something that would have been really hard to do by yourself?*
- The little girl is surprised that there are black and white people at the parade to honor Wilma Rudolph. In the 1960s in the southern United States, black and white people were not allowed to be in the same places. Discuss with your child what it would feel like to not be allowed to do something simply because of what you look like.

Literacy Tip

The end of the book contains a short biography of Wilma Rudolph. A biography tells facts and details about someone’s life. Read the biography with your child and discuss details about Wilma Rudolph’s life.

ON MY OWN

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Write a newspaper article for the day Wilma Rudolph visited Clarksville, Tennessee. Write the headline, draw a picture, and answer who, what, where, when, and why to describe the day.

Headline: _____

Picture of Wilma Rudolph

Who: _____

What: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

Why: _____