



Summary

In the Fast Lane: Kurt Busch is a biography about one of the most recent champions to NASCAR. The book provides a brief history of Busch's youth and his rise to champion status as a stock car driver.

Vocabulary	Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features
championship NASCAR rookie series	Using prior knowledge to understand text, Summarizing information	Text structure: Description, Organization	table of contents photographs text boxes index bold glossary words

Standards: Language Arts

- Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of informational texts – biography
- Knows the defining characteristics of a variety of informational texts
- Uses the various parts of the book to locate information
- Understands structural patterns of organization in informational texts

Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students if they are familiar with Kurt Busch or car racing. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students and introduces them to the vocabulary words. Ask the students to examine the glossary on page 23.

Discussion questions:

- Read the definition for *rookie*. When you are a *rookie*, do you have a lot of experience?
- What does it mean to become a champion? Read the definition for *championship* in the glossary. How do you become a champion in race car driving?
- What is a *series*? How do you think it relates to racing? Check the definition in the glossary to explain your answer.
- What does the acronym *NASCAR* stand for?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **In the Fast Lane: Kurt Busch** is a biography. Ask if any students know what type of information they can expect to find in a biography. Then highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Skim the book. There are many text boxes called "Fast Facts." Are the text boxes important for you to read? Why or why not?
- Compare the two photos on pages 8 and 20. What are some characteristics of the two cars that are the same? What are different? Which car do you believe would be faster? Why?

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **In the Fast Lane: Kurt Busch** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- Kurt did not begin his career as a stock car driver. What did he drive first? How do you think his early experience has helped him with his current career?
- Busch has changed race series and cars many times throughout his short career. Do you think he will give up driving at an early age? Why or why not? Use information from the text to support your answer.

BLM: Extension Activity

Using information from the book, students may use the next page to write a brief summary of Kurt Busch's career.



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Kurt Busch's Career

Directions: On page 22, there is a text box that contains a brief timeline of Kurt Busch's career. Use the graphic organizer to help you write about his career in sequential order. You may also use details from the rest of the book to enhance your summary. Illustrate what you believe to be the highlight of Kurt Busch's career and label it.

Draw career highlight:

Write:
