



## Summary

**In the Fast Lane: Matt Kenseth** is a biography about Matt Kenseth and his rise to fame in the NASCAR world of racing. The book also emphasizes his partnership with his crew chief, Robbie Reiser.

Vocabulary	Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features
championship NASCAR rookie stock car	Using prior knowledge to understand text, Determining important supporting details	Text structure: Description, Use of a variety of details to support main ideas, Organization	table of contents photographs text boxes index bold glossary words headings captions timeline glossary

### 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 or 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/](http://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 Matt Kenseth or car racing. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students and introduces them to the vocabulary words. Ask students to examine the glossary on page 23.

Discussion questions:

- Read the definition for *stock car*. What is the difference between a car we see on the street and a *stock car*?
- What does the acronym *NASCAR* mean?
- 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 does *rookie* mean? If you are a *rookie* tennis player, how long have you been playing tennis?

#### Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **In the Fast Lane: Matt Kenseth** 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:

- Throughout the book you can find text boxes and photo captions. Why is it important to read both?
- Read the headings in the table of contents. What are some descriptive words that the author uses about Kenseth? How do these words help you to make a prediction about Matt Kenseth and his abilities as a race car driver?

#### Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

### Comprehension Questions

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

- The author states that sacrifices must be made to race cars for a living. What sacrifices did Matt Kenseth make in order to become a champion?
- What can we learn from Matt Kenseth and Robbie Reiser's relationship?

### BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to write a list of steps that must be accomplished for Matt Kenseth to win another NASCAR championship.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Steps to Winning**

Directions: Matt Kenseth wants to win another NASCAR Cup Championship. Write a list of steps that Kenseth must accomplish in order to win again. Illustrate what you think is the most important step and label it.

Steps to winning:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Draw:

I think step number \_\_\_\_ is the most important because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_