



Summary

In The Fast Lane: Tony Stewart describes how Tony Stewart got his start in racing at seven and how his passion for driving all types of race cars has made him a unique and successful figure in the world of auto racing.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
championship	inaugural	Determining main idea and supporting details	Identify characteristics of biography	table of contents	headings
IRL	NASCAR	Using prior knowledge to understand text		captions	photographs
rookie	series			text boxes	timeline
versatile				glossary	index
				bold glossary words	

Standards: Language Arts

- Knows the defining characteristics of a variety of informational texts – biography
- Uses text features to determine main idea and locate information
- Understands organization and structure of 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 and ask students if they are familiar with Tony Stewart or car racing. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students and introduces them to the vocabulary words. Have students turn to the glossary on page 23.

Discussion questions:

- *IRL* and *NASCAR* are abbreviations for different types of auto racing. What are some of the differences between IRL and NASCAR races?
- What does *rookie* mean?
- *Inaugural* means "marking a beginning." How are *rookie* and *inaugural* related?
- What is a *series*? If someone wins the series *championship* what do you think that means?
- What does *versatile* mean?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **In The Fast Lane: Tony Stewart** 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:

- Look at the colored text box on page 4 of your book. What information is in the text box? Do you think this information is stated in the running text as well? Skim the rest of the book. Do you see other text boxes? Is it important to read the information in text boxes?
- One important characteristic of a biography is that it gives facts about the person. Skim the book to find an example of how the author includes facts about Tony Stewart.

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **In The Fast Lane: Tony Stewart**, gather them for a discussion based on the questions below or assign them to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- Why is Tony Stewart considered to be one of the most versatile drivers in racing today?
- Do you think Tony Stewart's choice to focus on one racing series had a positive or negative impact on his career? Explain your answer.

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the graphic organizer on the next page to plan a biography about a classmate or family member.



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EXTENSION ACTIVITY

In the Fast Lane: Tony Stewart

Name: _____

Date: _____

Planning a Biography

Directions: Interview one of your classmates or family members to gather information about them. Then, use the graphic organizer below as a planning tool for a biography about this person.

Full Name and Important Dates (timeline)	
Special Talents, Personality Traits	
Achievements	
Obstacles to Overcome	
Quote (what the person says)	