

Althea Gibson

• Reading Comprehension •

Activity **1** Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.
Stop and think as you read.

Good readers are active readers.

Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.

Althea has too much energy. She would rather have a ball in her hand than a book. Althea stays away from school for days at a time.

Stop and think: Why does Althea stay away from school?

Althea gets into trouble for not going to school. Althea lives by her own rules. Her parents cannot control her. Her father beats her for not going to school. Her father beats her for coming home late.

Stop and think: Imagine you are Althea's parent.
How do you feel about Althea's behaviour?
How do you try to control Althea?

Sometimes, Althea runs away. She goes to a place that protects children.

Stop and think: What places or services in your community protect children?
What do you think of these places or services?



Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Good readers can find the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea. The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand and remember the main idea.

Check the details that support each main idea.

The first one is an example.

Main idea	Details
Althea likes sports as a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Althea is really good at paddle tennis. ✓ Althea plays stickball well. Althea has a lot of energy.
1. The streets of Harlem are alive with people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a)___ Althea grows up in Harlem. (b)___ Children play on the streets. (c)___ People sell food on the streets.
2. Althea breaks the colour barrier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a)___ Althea plays in the U.S. Open. (b)___ Althea wins at Wimbledon. (c)___ Althea writes a book about her life.

Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read between the lines. Writers expect readers to figure out the invisible messages.

Read the writer's words.

Figure out the invisible message.

The writer's words	The invisible message
Althea lives by her own rules.	<p><i>Althea does what she wants.</i></p> <p><i>Althea does not listen to her parents.</i></p>
1. Althea has food on her plate.	
2. Althea's smile can fill a room.	

Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

- Tennis players are good sports. ____
Tennis players shake hands after a match. ____
- Fred Johnson was the best coach in Harlem. ____
Fred Johnson gave Althea her first tennis lesson. ____
- Althea changes history. ____
In 1950, Althea plays in the U.S. Open. ____

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.

Facts can be proven.

Opinions are ideas or beliefs.

Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

Question	Chapter	Answer
What is Althea like as a young girl?	Growing Up in Harlem	She likes sports and movies. She does not like school. She does what she wants. She gets in trouble a lot.
1. When does Althea start playing tennis?		
2. When does Althea become the best woman tennis player in the world?		
3. Where is Althea born?		

Activity **6** Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.
Make a connection to your life.

Reading is more than understanding
the ideas on a page.

Good readers connect the ideas
to their lives.

Idea



Your Life

The sport of tennis is segregated.
Black people play tennis with blacks.
White people play with whites.
Dr. Johnson thinks Althea can break the
colour barrier.

People face different barriers.
Barriers make it hard for people
to do what they want to do.

What are some barriers
that people face?

Have you ever had to fight against
a barrier?

What did you want to do?

What was the barrier?

Did you break the barrier?

If yes, how?



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• Writing •

Activity 1 Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about barriers.
Use your ideas from page 30.

Your instructor will help you with spelling.

Paragraph 1

People fight different barriers. For example,

_____ .
_____ .
_____ is
another barrier.

Paragraph 2

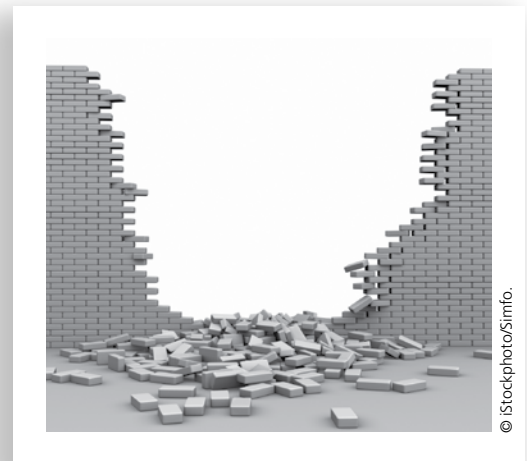
I came up against a barrier one time.


I wanted to _____ .
I couldn't because _____ .
I broke the barrier by _____ .
_____ .

Read each paragraph out loud.
Which paragraph do you like better?
Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

Good writers know that writing is a process.
Good writers think of ideas before they write.
Good writers check their writing.



Activity 2 Organize Ideas 

Read the details for the idea map.

Are the details about poor families in the Depression?
Or are the details about Althea's family
in the Depression? Or both?

Copy the details into the correct box.
The first one is an example.

Good writers know that writing is a process.
Good writers organize their ideas before they write.
One way to organize ideas is to use comparison and contrast.

Idea Map

Details		
have no jobs ✓	cannot buy food	live in an apartment
cannot pay rent	have no place to live	live in hard times
have jobs	can buy food	



Different

have no jobs

Same

Different

Choose details from the idea map to complete the paragraphs.

Copy the details into the paragraphs.

Paragraph A

Many poor families have a hard time during the Great Depression.

They do not have jobs. They cannot _____ or _____ . Many families _____ .

Paragraph B

Althea's family is lucky during the Great Depression. Her parents

_____ . They can buy food. The family _____ .

Activity 3 Use Capital Letters and Punctuation



Read the paragraphs.
Add capital letters and end punctuation.

Paragraph 1

althea starts to play tennis she has the best coach in harlem his name is fred johnson

Paragraph 2

althea's first tennis lesson is in 1941 fred teaches althea to learn from her mistakes fred thinks althea will become great

In this activity...

- use capital letters**
at the beginning of a sentence, with names of people, and with names of places.
- use punctuation**
at the end of a sentence.

• Word Attack Skills •

Activity

1

Predict the Word



Complete each sentence.

Use the pictures to predict the words.

Readers see new words all the time.
They need to decode the new words.

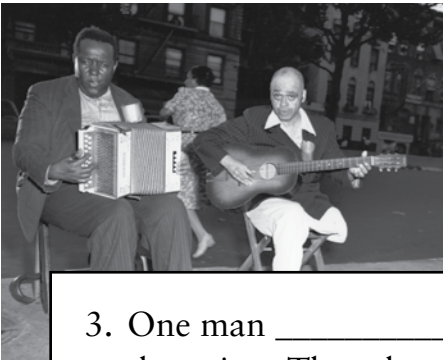
Good readers decode words
in different ways.

They use pictures to predict words.
They use meaning clues to predict words.

These are two ways to decode words.



1. Althea holds a tennis
_____ and
_____.



3. One man _____
the guitar. The other man plays
the _____.



2. Althea is in a
_____.

Complete each sentence.

Use meaning clues to predict the word.

4. Althea is the queen of tennis. Her parents feel very _____.

5. Althea has a good coach. He teaches her to _____ from her mistakes.

6. Althea's _____ is in the newspaper.

Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.

Each word has a common pattern.

Group the words under the correct pattern.

<i>say</i> ✓	<i>day</i>	<i>hook</i>	<i>shook</i>
<i>book</i>	<i>catch</i>	<i>stay</i>	<i>patch</i>
<i>match</i>	<i>play</i>	<i>look</i>	<i>hatch</i>

Good readers look for common patterns in words.

This is another way to decode words.

ay

atch

ook

say

Read the sentences in the box.

Circle the words that have one of these patterns:

ay atch ook

Many words have common patterns.

The patterns look and sound the same.

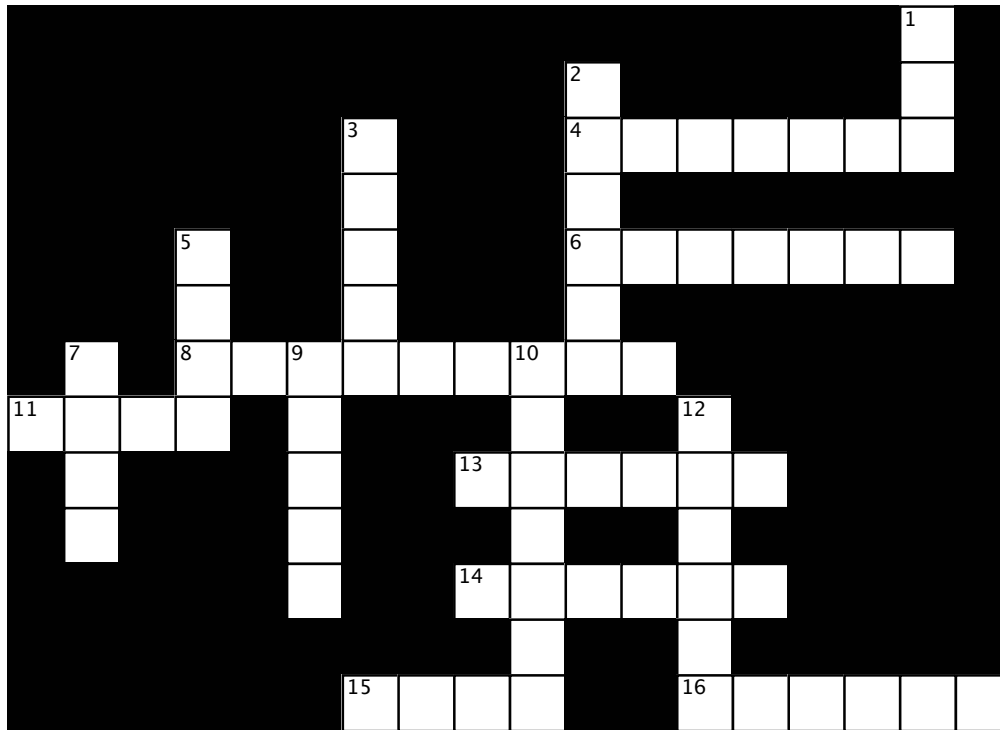
Find the Common Patterns



1. Althea loves to play sports.
2. She stays away from school for days.
3. Althea's parents catch her skipping school.
4. Althea wins many tennis matches.
5. Althea writes a book about her life.
6. She looks like a happy person.

• Crossword •

Althea Gibson



Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Althea Gibson's biography.

ACROSS

4. a subject we study in school to learn about the past
6. opposite of something
8. we read this for the news
11. people who love sports
13. we make clothes from this plant
14. we need a ball, net, and racquet for this sport
15. hit hard again and again
16. we go here to learn

DOWN

1. unlock a door with this
2. opposite of stay the same
3. we read these
5. opposite of loses
7. lots of; several
9. another word for the Earth
10. keep somebody safe from harm
12. we watch these at the cinema

Althea Gibson



1. **Main Idea and Details:** (1) b, c (2) a, b
2. **Invisible Messages*:** (1) Althea always has enough to eat. Althea's family is not poor. (2) Althea has a big, beautiful smile.
3. **Fact and Opinion:** (1) O/F (2) O/F (3) O/F
4. **Table of Contents:** (1) Althea Learns Tennis / in 1941 (2) The Queen of Tennis / in 1957; when she wins Wimbledon (3) A Star is Born / Silver, South Carolina
5. **Organize Ideas: Idea Map: Different:** cannot pay rent / cannot buy food / have no place to live **Same:** live in hard times **Different:** have jobs / can buy food / live in an apartment **Paragraph 1:** pay the rent / buy food / have no place to live **Paragraph 2:** have jobs / lives in an apartment
6. **Use Capital Letters and Punctuation: Paragraph 1:** Althea starts to play tennis. She has the best coach in Harlem. His name is Fred Johnson. **Paragraph 2:** Althea's first tennis lesson is in 1941. Fred teaches Althea to learn from her mistakes. Fred thinks Althea will become great.
7. **Predict the Word*:** (1) ball / racquet (2) parade; car (3) plays / accordion (4) proud; happy (5) learn (6) picture; face; story
8. **Find Common Patterns:** (1) play (2) stays / away / days (3) catch (4) matches (5) book (6) looks
9. **Divide and Conquer:** (1) sport (2) play (3) go (4) luck (5) teach (6) proud (7) train (8) watch (9) play (10) movie (11) lucky (12) sports (13) watches / movies (14) teaches (15) teaches (16) going (17) training (18) watches (19) proudest (20) played

*Accept any answer that makes sense.

Crossword Solution

