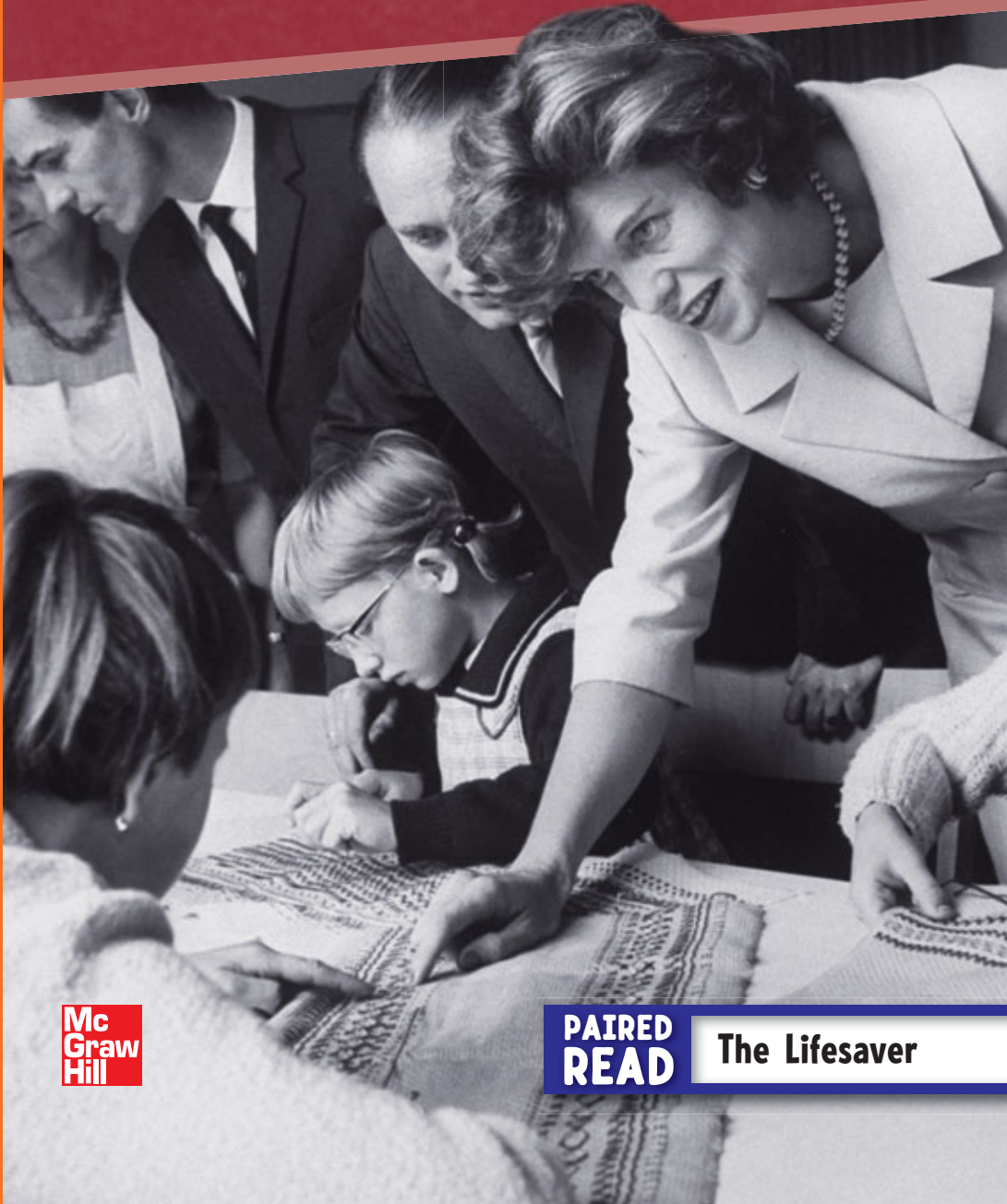


Biography

Eunice Kennedy Shriver



by Geoff Fairburn



**Mc
Graw
Hill**

**PAIRED
READ**

The Lifesaver

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Ask and Answer Questions

Skill: Author's Point of View

Vocabulary Strategy

Prefixes and Suffixes

Vocabulary

citizenship, continue, daring, horrified, participate, proposed, unfairness, waver

Content Standards

Social Studies

Civics and Government

Word count: 972**

Photography Credit: Cover John Loengard/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images.

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Genre

Biography



Essential Question

What do good citizens do?

Eunice Kennedy Shriver



by Geoff Fairburn

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PAIRED READ

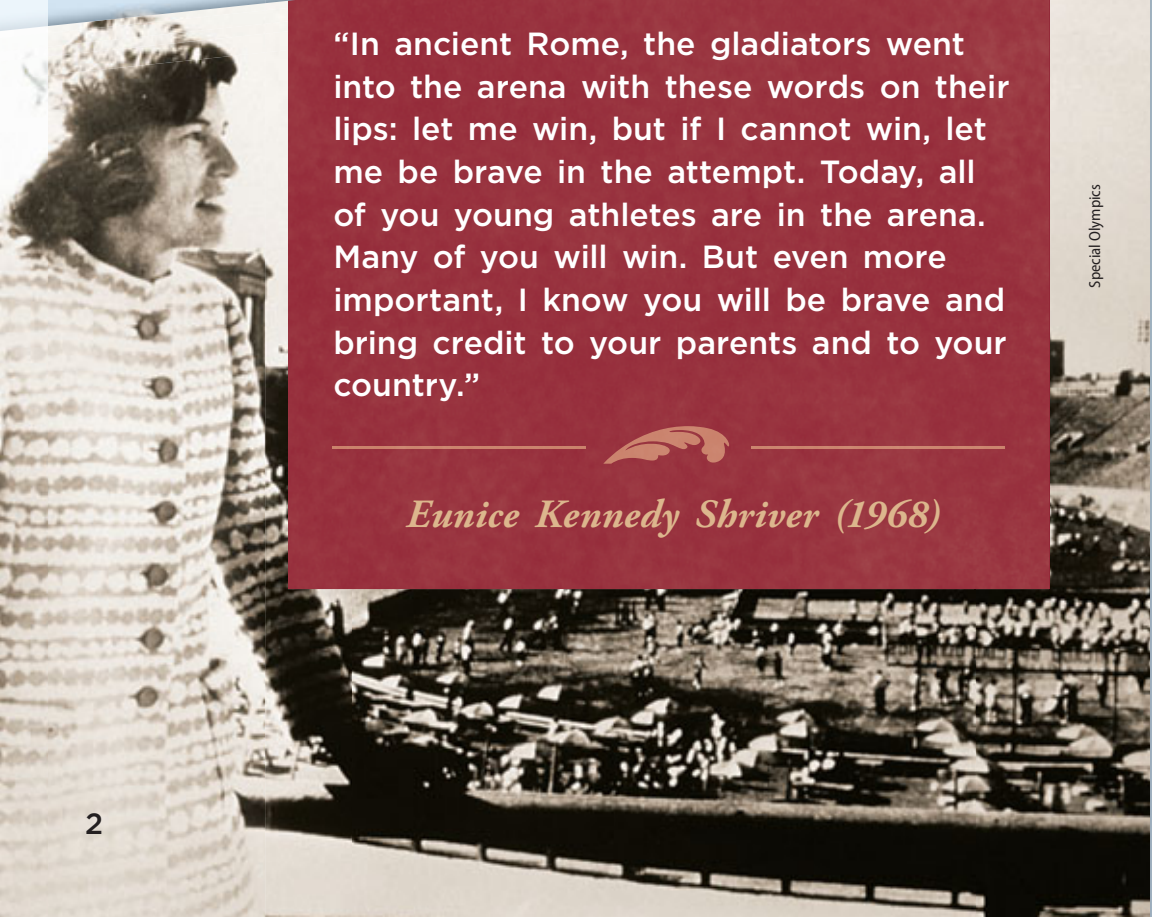
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Introduction

In 1968, a very special event took place. One thousand **athletes** got together for a sports event. There were around one hundred people watching. As the event began, a woman spoke to the athletes. She said, “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”



“In ancient Rome, the gladiators went into the arena with these words on their lips: let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt. Today, all of you young athletes are in the arena. Many of you will win. But even more important, I know you will be brave and bring credit to your parents and to your country.”



Eunice Kennedy Shriver (1968)



Eunice Kennedy Shriver (left) was the founder of Special Olympics.

This was the start of the first Special Olympics Games. The one thousand athletes all had **intellectual disabilities**. The woman was Eunice Kennedy Shriver. She had helped plan the games. She made the opening speech. She was a remarkable woman who worked for much of her life to improve the lives of people living with intellectual disabilities.

STOP AND CHECK

What happened in 1968?

Chapter 1 Growing Up

Eunice Kennedy was born in 1921. She had eight brothers and sisters. The Kennedy children were raised to always do their best. Eunice's father, Joe, told Eunice to "win, win, win."

Eunice was an excellent athlete. She loved swimming and sailing. She loved playing touch football with her brothers. All of Eunice's brothers and sisters would have fun and play sports. Eunice loved go sailing with her older sister Rosemary.

Eunice (far right) loved to play football with her brothers.

CORBIS





Eunice (left) and her sister Rosemary (right) had a special relationship.

Rosemary Kennedy was born with mental challenges. She was slow to learn. When she was in her twenties, her family had trouble taking care of her at home. Rosemary had a brain operation to help her get better. Sadly, the operation did not work. Rosemary went to live in a special home. She spent time with her family. She loved to swim.

Eunice was happy to have grown up with Rosemary. She learned a lot from her. She learned what people with intellectual disabilities were capable of. At that time, people with intellectual disabilities could not go to school or work. They were not encouraged to make friends or take part in athletic events. Eunice felt the unfairness of this. She wanted to make life better for people like her sister Rosemary.

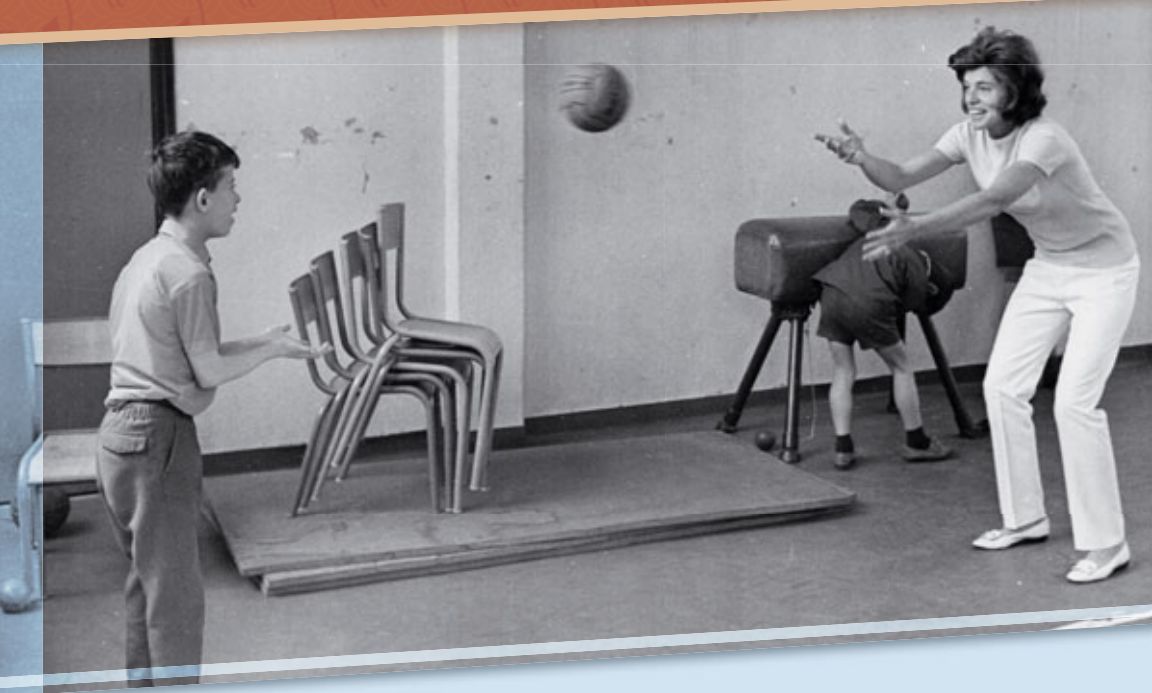
STOP AND CHECK

Why was Eunice happy to have grown up with Rosemary?

Today, people living with intellectual disabilities have the chance to go to schools and play sports.



Chapter 2 A Life of Public Service



Eunice made people's lives better with sports, exercise, and fun.

In 1953, Eunice married Sargent Shriver. Eunice and Sargent had five children. Eunice also helped people living with intellectual disabilities.

Eunice ran a **charity**. The charity tried to learn more about intellectual disabilities. It looked for better ways to treat people facing such challenges.

Eunice's brother John F. Kennedy became President of the United States. Eunice asked her brother the president for his help. She wanted schools and training programs for people with intellectual disabilities in every community.



Eunice was there when President Kennedy (left) signed a bill to help people with intellectual disabilities.

In 1963, President Kennedy signed a bill. There would be more schools and training programs.

Bettmann/CORBIS

THE KENNEDY BROTHERS

The Kennedy family was very involved in politics and government. Eunice's brother John F. Kennedy became president of the United States in 1961. He was president until November 1963, when he was shot and killed while in Dallas, Texas. Robert F. Kennedy was attorney general from 1961 to 1964. He worked closely with John, and after John's death he ran for president. Robert was killed in June 1968. Edward Kennedy was a senator for Massachusetts for 47 years.

In 1962, Eunice wrote an article for a magazine. She wrote about growing up with her sister Rosemary. She described how horrified she was when she learned how people with disabilities were treated.

Eunice helped people think about the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. She said they needed special education and training.



LEARNING FROM ROSEMARY

“Those of us who have seen children live in the shadows know that a country as rich as ours cannot possibly justify this neglect.”



*President John F. Kennedy
(1961)*

Chapter 3 From Camp Shriver to Special Olympics



Camp Shriver was set up as a place where everyone could have fun and play sports.

In 1962, Eunice started a summer camp at her home in Maryland. The camp was called Camp Shriver. Intellectually disabled children and their families could go for free. There were lots of fun and games. Eunice and her family took part in the fun. Everyone swam and played ball. Eunice soon set up other camps around the country.

The charity that Eunice ran paid for the sports camps. The camps were a success. Next, Eunice proposed that a sports event be held for children with disabilities. This idea grew. It led Eunice to start Special Olympics in 1968. The first International Special Olympics Summer Games took place at Soldier Field in Chicago.



THE FIRST SPECIAL OLYMPICS GAMES

One thousand athletes from 26 states and Canada competed in track and swimming. Swimming included 25 meter races, and track had short distance running, ball throws, and standing long jump.



Eunice loved sports. She was a friend to all Special Olympics athletes.

As Eunice opened the first Special Olympics Games, she believed in the athletes. She hoped others would, too. Today, the games continue to grow. There are Special Olympics in over 170 countries. Almost 4 million athletes participate. They train and compete. They do their best to win.

The Special Olympics have helped people to see the **capabilities** of those who live with intellectual disabilities.

People with intellectual disabilities were once hidden away. Today, they go to school. They make friends. They get jobs. They play sports. They are celebrated for their **achievements**.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver made things better. She spent her life working for people with intellectual disabilities. She did not waver. She improved their lives.



More than 7,500 athletes participated in the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in China.

“By your presence, you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope, a message of victory. The right to play on any playing field? You have earned it. The right to study in any school? You have earned it. The right to hold a job? You have earned it. The right to be anyone’s neighbor? You have earned it.”

Eunice Kennedy Shriver (1987)



Like Nelson Mandela (left), Eunice Kennedy Shriver sent a message of hope to the world.

Many people thanked Eunice for what she had done during her lifetime. She won awards for her good citizenship.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver died in August of 2009. Her work changed lives. She helped millions of people with intellectual disabilities. She gave them a chance to compete and to win.

STOP AND CHECK

What was Camp Shriver?

TIME LINE

- 1921** Born
- 1943** Graduates from Stanford University
- 1951** Moves to Chicago; marries Sargent Shriver, May 1953
- 1957** Becomes director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
- 1961** Brother John F. Kennedy becomes President of the United States
- 1962** First Camp Shriver held
- 1963** Intellectual Disabilities Bill signed, October 24
John F. Kennedy dies, November 22
- 1968** Robert F. Kennedy dies, June 6
First Special Olympics held, July 20
- 1984** Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Ronald Reagan
- 2009** Dies August 11

Respond to Reading

Summarize

Summarize what you have learned about how the author feels about Eunice Kennedy Shriver's life. Use the Point of View Chart to help you.

Details

↓

Point of View

Text Evidence

1. How do you know that *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* is a nonfiction text? What kind of nonfiction is it? How do you know? **GENRE**
2. What words or phrases in the text tell you how the author feels about Eunice Kennedy Shriver? **AUTHOR'S POINT OF VIEW**
3. What does the word *encouraged* on page 6 mean? Use the prefix to help you figure out the meaning. **PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES**
4. Write about the language the author uses to tell you how he feels about Eunice.

WRITE ABOUT READING

Compare Texts

Read about a man who dedicated his life to water safety.



THE LIFESAVER

Have you ever seen lifeguards at the pool or the beach? They are there because of Bert Longfellow. He helped to “waterproof” America.

In 1900, Bert worked for a newspaper. He wrote many stories about people who had drowned. Bert was horrified that so many people drowned. People wanted to have fun and be daring in the water. But not many people knew how to swim.

Bert was only 19, but he wanted to help. He became a volunteer lifesaver. He helped rescue people. He traveled the country to teach people how to be safe in the water.



Bert Longfellow (center) shows trainees how to rescue people in the water.

In 1907, Bert was told that he was very sick. He had a bone disease. He could not teach water safety. Bert decided to spend time in the sunshine everyday. The sunshine helped Bert to get better.

In 1912, Bert asked the American Red Cross to help him. He wanted everyone in the country to learn to stay safe in the water. Bert organized Red Cross swimming and lifesaving programs across the country.

More and more people swam and played in the water. But the number of drowning deaths continued to fall. This was thanks to the work Bert did.

The American Red Cross leads the world in teaching lifesaving. The Red Cross still trains lifeguards. The Red Cross still teaches swimming to people of all ages.



Red Cross lifeguards patrol pools, lakes, and beaches to help keep swimmers safe.



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Make Connections

What qualities did Bert Longfellow have that made him a good citizen? **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

Could you say the same things about Eunice Kennedy Shriver? **TEXT TO TEXT**

Glossary

achievements (*uh-CHEEV-ments*) something done with great effort and courage (**page 13**)

athletes (*ATH-leets*) people who are trained or skilled in sports or games (**page 2**)

capabilities (*cay-puh-BIL-i-teez*) skills and strengths that can be used and developed (**page 12**)

charity (*CHER-uh-tee*) an organization that helps people who are poor, sick, or face other challenges (**page 7**)

intellectual disabilities (*in-ti-LEK-chew-ahl dis-a-BI-li-teez*) conditions of the mind that make it difficult for people to do or understand things in the normal way (**page 3**)

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Focus on Social Studies

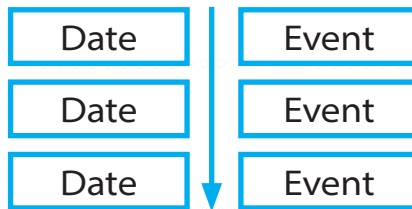
Purpose To make a time line of a person's life.

What to Do

Step 1 Choose somebody who you think has been a good citizen.

Step 2 Research that person's life.

Step 3 Write down the key events in his or her life, in the order they happened, to make a time line. Use the chart to help you.



Step 4 Write a biographical report about your good citizen.

Conclusion What does the time line tell you about your good citizen?

Thinkmark

The Topic

What is this book mostly about?

Sequence of Information

In what order does the author give us the information in this book?

Key Vocabulary

What are the key words in *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* that relate to the topic?

Authors Purpose

What is the author's purpose for writing *Eunice Kennedy Shriver*?

Make Connections

How is *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* like other biographies you have read?