

# UNCOMMON CHAMPIONS





## Talk About It

All runners face challenges during races. How do you think the champion in this photo deals with challenges?



Find out more about uncommon champions at [www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)

## Vocabulary

typical	deteriorated
specialists	maturity
peripheral	summit
guidance	awesome



## Context Clues

**Synonyms** are words with the same or nearly the same meanings. For example, *side* and *peripheral* are synonyms. When you come across an unfamiliar word, check to see if there is a synonym for it in the same paragraph.

# BETHANY HAMILTON'S

# COMEBACK

by Cesar Aparicio

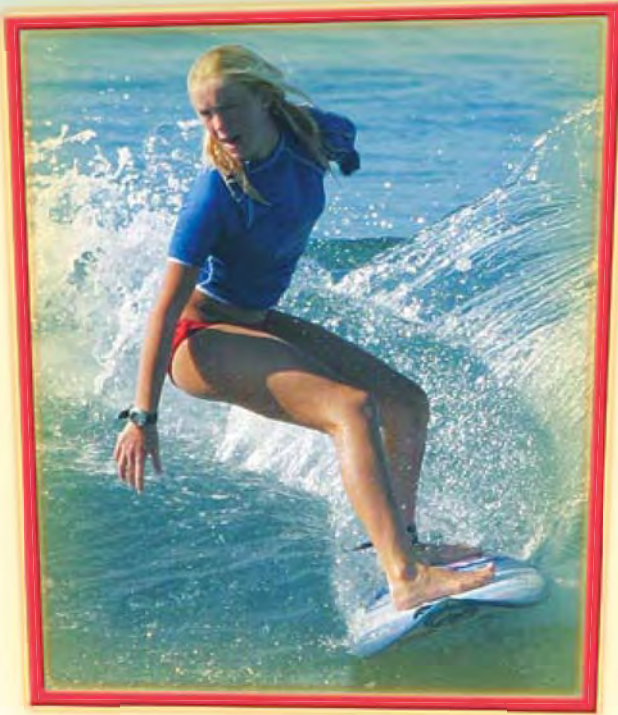
Bethany Hamilton has never been a **typical** surfer like all the others. She surfs “goofy footed,” with her right foot in front. Now, even more so, she goes against the norm. She surfs with one arm!

One day in late October, Bethany was surfing at Hawaii’s Tunnel Beach. Around 7:30 A.M., a tiger shark attacked Bethany, biting off her left arm. Bethany was rushed to the hospital where **specialists** in limb loss worked on her injury.

Before her attack, Bethany was ranked second from her area in amateur surfing and was thought of as one of the best new women surfers. She hoped to become a professional surfer. To further her plans, Bethany was homeschooled, which gave her more time to surf.

Bethany didn’t put her plans for the future to the side. She would not let the attack put her in a **peripheral** position. Instead, she moved back into the limelight when she returned to the water about four weeks after the attack. Three months later, she received a prosthetic arm and competed nationally.





She competed in the National Scholastic Surfing Association meet in Hawaii and took fifth place. In worldwide competitions, she shows her **maturity**, or development, as a person and as a surfer, refusing to let her work before the attack represent the **summit**, or peak, of her surfing career. She continues to progress with each contest. “I’m an athlete first, with a great second story,” Bethany said to a reporter.

With the help and **guidance** of both her coach and her father, Bethany has been encouraged to keep up the sport and she continues to improve. Because she returned so quickly and works so hard, her surfing skills have not **deteriorated**.

Bethany has received an award as best comeback athlete, which is proof of her athletic ability and a testament to her personal strength. This young woman is an **awesome** example for athletes around the world. She is a picture of courage and grace in the face of tremendous challenges.

## Reread for Comprehension



### Evaluate

#### Author’s Purpose

One way to evaluate a text is to examine the author’s purpose. An author usually has one main purpose for writing. He or she might want to entertain, inform or persuade.

Use the Author’s Purpose Chart as you reread “Bethany Hamilton’s Comeback” to identify the author’s purpose.

Clues	Author’s Purpose
	→

