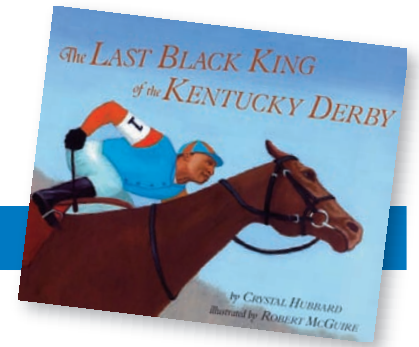


# The Last Black King of the Kentucky Derby



## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Black History, Sports, Determination

**Grade Level:** 3rd to 5th grade

**Book Brief:** This book tells the true story of Jimmy Winkfield, the last Black jockey to win the Kentucky Derby.

**Author:**

Crystal Hubbard

**Illustrator:** Robert McGuire

**Content Connections:** Math, Social Studies, Art, Physical Education

## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Make predictions about the text based on the title and front cover illustration. Who is the man in the picture? What is he doing? What kind of uniform is he wearing? What do you think the title means?

**The Pictures:** As you read the book, notice how the illustrations help to tell the story. Notice how small the jockeys look compared to their horses. If an average race horse is 64 inches tall, how tall can we infer Jimmy was? (He stood just under 5 feet.)

**Prior Knowledge:** Make sure students know what the Kentucky Derby is and what a jockey does. Ask

students why they think jockeys matter when the horses are the ones doing all the running. Explain that this is a biography of Jimmy Winkfield. The foreword and the endnotes contain background information about his life that would enhance understanding of the story.

**Vocabulary:** sharecropper, silks, suspension, homestretch, tension

**Purpose for Reading:** Students can practice summarizing. "As we read, think about the different challenges in Jimmy Winkfield's life and how he handled each one."

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why did Jimmy want to become a jockey? Who was his inspiration?
- ◆ How did Jimmy get started in racing?
- ◆ Why was he suspended after his first race? How did he react?

- ◆ How did he finish in his Kentucky Derby races? Is that a record?
- ◆ What did Jimmy do in Russia and France?
- ◆ Why was Jimmy happy even though he had to leave home?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: "What were some of the challenges that Jimmy faced? How did he react? What would you have done if you were in his position? Would you have given up on racing when things got too tough? Why didn't Jimmy give up?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask these open-ended questions: "Why do you think Jimmy Winkfield was the last Black jockey to win the Kentucky Derby?" "Why do you think he was able to race in Europe but not in the US?" "Are there any Black jockeys in the Kentucky Derby today? How could you find out?"

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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