

LESSON PLAN

OBJECTIVES

- Novel study or shared reading
- Learning to make comparisons

MATERIALS

- Non-fiction story *The Man Who Ran Faster Than Everyone* by Jack Batten (The Story of Tom Longboat) Tundra Books, 2002

ANTICIPATORY SET

Tell the story of Alex Decoteau's race against Tom Longboat in Fort Saskatchewan. Longboat was already the famous winner of the Boston Marathon. Before the race he reportedly said to Decoteau, "Son, when this race starts all you will see is my back." Decoteau won the race. He and Longboat may have become friends. Apparently they saw each other at least once during World War I. In his letter to Emily, Decoteau reported that he had heard Longboat had been killed.

However, Tom Longboat lived well into his old age. *The Man Who Ran Faster Than Everyone* is a fascinating read because it explores difficulties Longboat faced, which Decoteau may or may not have shared.

PROCEDURE

Either read the story to the students, or locate enough copies that they can read it independently and study the photographs, and discuss elements of the story. Have students share with the class their favourite parts of the story.

Have students illustrate sections of the story. One possibility is to draw a picture of Alex Decoteau and Tom Longboat running together.

CLOSURE

Have students compare and contrast the lives of the two athletes. Discuss what things have changed for athletes today, and what elements remain the same.

EVALUATION

Can they retell parts of the story? Use discussion, writing and visual representation to assess the understanding of ideas and experiences.

MODIFICATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Have students work in groups, discussing, writing and illustrating parts of the story.

They could use a Comparison Organizer to compare and contrast the lives of Alex Decoteau and Tom Longboat. Some students might illustrate the story while others could engage in role play to explore certain events from the story.