

A Standards-Aligned Educator Guide for Grades 1 to 4

GIRLS WITH GUTS: THE ROAD TO BREAKING BARRIERS AND BASHING RECORDS

About the book:

Age Range: 6 to 9 years
Grade Level: Grades 1–4
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No chasing! No stretching or straining! And never, ever sweat. These were the rules girls were forced to play by until Title IX passed in 1972. And it was a game-changer.

A celebration of the strength, endurance, and athleticism of women and girls throughout the ages, *Girls With Guts!* keeps score with examples of women athletes from the late 1800s up through the 1970s, sharing how women refused to take no for an answer, and how finally, they pushed for a law to protect their right to play, compete, and be athletes.

About the author - Debbie Gonzales:

Debbie Gonzales is a career educator, curriculum consultant, former school administrator and adjunct professor, a podcaster (The Debcast), and once served as a SCBWI RA for the Austin Chapter. Deb currently devotes her time to writing middle grade novels, crafting teacher guides and various other freelance projects. She's the author of six "transitional" readers for New Zealand publisher, Giltedge, and her debut non-fiction picture book *Girls with Guts: The Road to Breaking Barriers and Bashing Records* (Charlesbridge, 2019). A transplanted Texan, Debbie now calls beautiful Ann Arbor, Michigan home where she lives with her husband John and spunky pup, Missy. Deb earned her MFA in writing for children and young adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts.



About the illustrator - Rebecca Gibbon:

Illustrator, Rebecca Gibbon was born in Wales in 1968. The youngest of four children she was fed on a diet of picture books by Edward Ardizzone, Roger Duvoisin & Richard Scarry; she dreamt of being an illustrator. Her favorite book was *Frances Face-Maker* by Tomi Ungerer. Her ambition was realized after gaining a first class Honors degree from John Moores University and consequently a Masters at Royal College of Art, London. While at the RCA she was spotted at a childrens book expo in Paris by a french Agent. Since graduating she has worked all over the globe and is represented world wide by Illustration Ltd.



Pre-Reading Discussion:

Consider the illustration on the front cover:

- Describe the action depicted in the illustration. Identify clues in the girls's expressions that suggest how the athletes are feeling.
- List the sports featured in the illustration. Identify those that you participate in.
- Explain what having *guts* means to you.
- A *barrier* is defined as being a barricade, a blockade, or a wall. Determine the purpose of a barrier. Discuss reasons why an athlete might desire to break through a barrier.
- A *record* is defined as an achievement, distinction, and an accomplishment. Tell how and why an athlete would want to break a record.
- Predict what you think this book is going to be about.



Post-Reading Discussion:

It's hard to believe that there was a time when girls were not encouraged to play sports. It's true. Athletic programs funded by the US government were once for boys only. That was the rule.

- Do you participate in athletics? If so, list the types of sports you participate in. Describe the equipment needed to compete. Talk about your coaches.
- If you don't participate in sports, explain why you've chosen not to.
- Consider the quote featured above. It is true that there was a time in history when girls were not encouraged – or even *allowed* – to compete. What do you think about this rule? Respond to this statement.

Unashamed and self-assured, courageous female athletes pressed on, even when folks tried to squash their competitive spirit.

- The word *confidence* means belief in oneself, courage, and fearlessness. Historically, athletic women were treated badly by many people. Explore how possessing confidence helped them to believe in themselves enough to continue to pursue their goals.

- Image what it would've been like if you wanted to compete in sport that you enjoy and were told that you couldn't, or shouldn't. How would that make you feel? How would you respond?
- Predict why athletic girls and women were treated in this way. Why were their competitive spirits squashed?

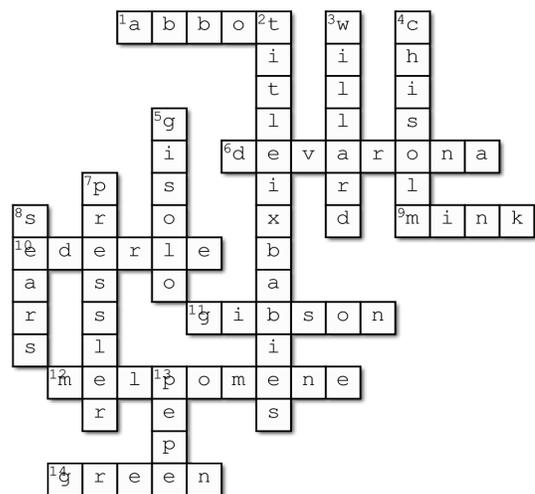
“Enough!” they said. “Equal rights for girls and boys!”

- What does the term *equal rights* mean to you? Explain your answer.
- The word *equality* means balance, fairness, and equal opportunity. Identify ways that, up to this point in history, female athletes had not been granted equality in sports.
- Edith Green, Shirley Chisholm, Patsy Mink and other members of Congress believed so strongly that they were willing to fight for equal treatment for girls in education and in sports. Express your feelings toward those that fought for the law known as Title IX.
- The word *opposition* means clash, hostility, and conflict. Discuss reasons why there was such strong opposition to Title IX, even after it became a law.

Title IX

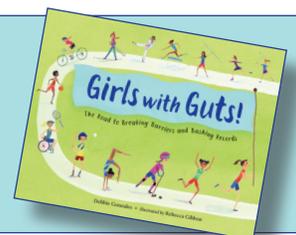
No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

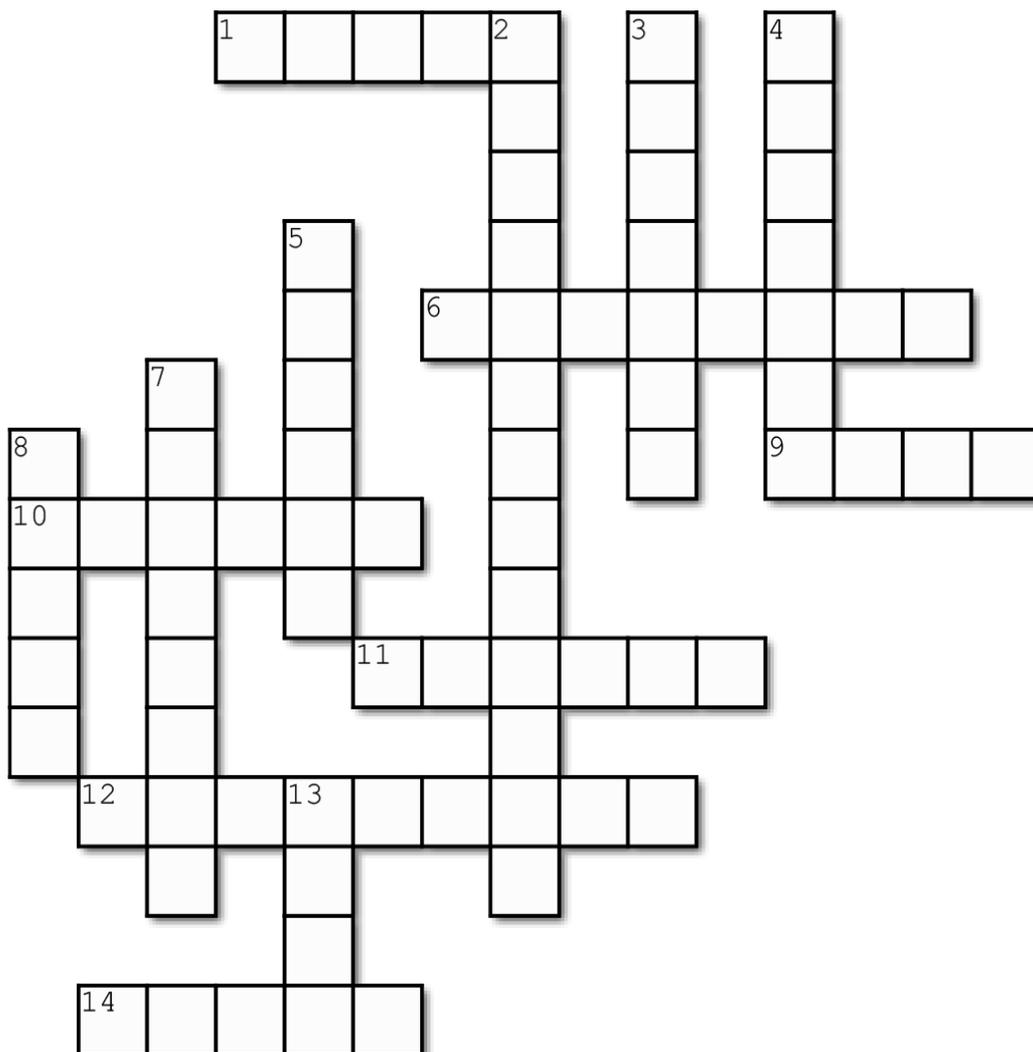


COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:

Reading Literature: RL.1, RL.2, RL.3, RL.4, RL.7, RL.10
 Reading Informational Text: RI.1, RI.2, RI.3, RI.4, RI.6, RI.7, RI.10
 Speaking & Listening: SL.1, SL.2, SL.4, SL.5, SL.6



Girls with Guts! Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS:

1. Author of the first Basketball Guide for Women
6. Gold medalist denied an athletic college scholarship for swimming
9. Asian-American Congresswoman who was one of the principal authors of Title IX
10. The first woman to swim the English Channel
11. First African-American to win a Grand Slam
12. Female marathoner who was refused entry into the stadium during the 1896 Olympics
14. Congresswoman who played an instrumental role in passing Title IX

DOWN:

2. Olympians born around the time Title IX was passed
3. Social reformer who stood out against gender inequality by riding a bicycle she named Gladys
4. The first African-American women elected to Congress
5. Banned from playing American Legion baseball
7. Judge known for deciding a landmark case allowing girls to compete in Little League baseball
8. Bold athlete in the early 1900s, excelled in sports such as polo, squash, golf, tennis, and horse-back riding
13. Pitched three games in Little League until being kicked out due to being a girl



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