

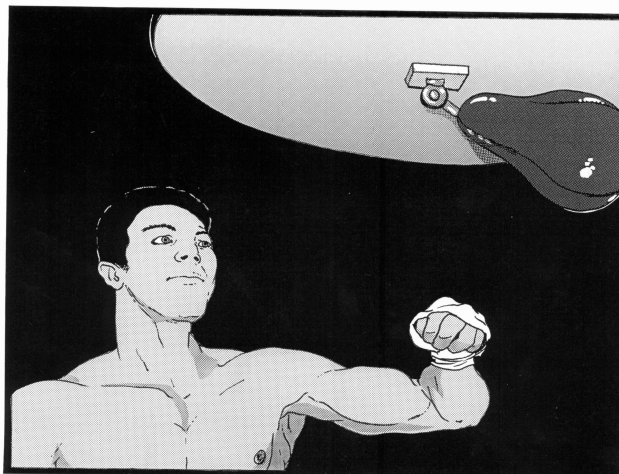
Muhammad Ali

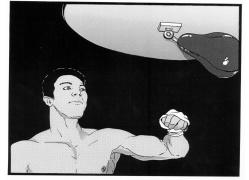
Cassius Clay was 12 years old and lived in Louisville, Kentucky. One day, his new bike was stolen. In tears, he told Officer Joe Martin, “I’m going to whip the person who stole my bike!” Joe said, “Well, then I better teach you how to fight.” Joe Martin was the boxing coach at the Columbia Gym.

Cassius Clay went to Columbia Gym and he learned to fight. He trained hard. When he was fifteen, he wore heavy boots and shadow boxed on the street. He raced school buses and drank raw eggs in his milk. He loved boxing. He wanted to go to the Olympics.

He was also very polite and religious. After school, he worked in the Nazareth College library. When the boxing team went to other towns, Cassius always stayed in his hotel room and read his bible. In 1958, he went to the Olympic trials in San Francisco. But, there was a problem. Cassius was afraid to fly. So, he bought a parachute, wore it on the plane, and prayed in the aisle.

At the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Cassius won the gold medal. In 1964, he became the world heavyweight champion. He changed his name to Muhammad Ali and joined the Muslims. Ali refused to go to war in Vietnam, and his title was taken away. He won his title back in 1974 when he fought George Foreman in Zaire, Africa.



**READING COMPREHENSION**

ESL Lesson Plans - Mini-Bios - Muhammad Ali

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. Where did Cassius live?

2. When his bike was stolen, who did he tell?

3. What did Cassius say?

4. What did Joe say?

5. Was Joe Martin the tennis coach at the Columbia gym?

6. What did Cassius Clay learn at the Columbia Gym?

7. When he was fifteen, did he wear roller blades and dance in the street?

8. What did he race?

9. Did he drink raw eggs in his milk?

10. Was Cassius very religious?

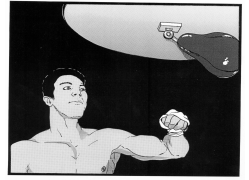
11. When his boxing team went to other towns, what did Cassius always do?

12. Where did he go for the Olympic trials?

13. What did he wear on the airplane?

14. What did he change his name to?

15. What happened when he refused to go to war in Vietnam?



Unscramble the words below from the story. Then write one original sentence for each word.

1. ighft _____

2. igbnox _____

3. accoh _____

4. tridnea _____

5. lopiymcs _____

6. iteolp _____

7. giorelius _____

8. leibb _____

9. ateparchu _____

Now find the words from above in the Word Search below.

j e f i g h t a s h d y c
a c a e i s b i a e h o d
i d r k y c o a c h m l i
s p t a v t x i i d n y u
d t o c d i r r y a v m a
e s a l o d n a y c c p t
g c e v i i g k i h h i o
i k a t p t r r i n d c w
f i r c r g e t a r e s k
t n t v r e h b i r t d e
s g s f r e l i g i o u s
e s u r b i b l e k n t e
t p a r a c h u t e d s c