KID OF THE YEAR

KID OF THE YEAR: ORION JEAN
Orion leads campaigns to help people in need. Along the way, he inspires others to join his crusade for kindness.
LEXILE: 800L
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individual Development and Identity
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, W.6-8.2, SL.6-8.1, SL.4

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION
● How did the pandemic give rise to Orion’s humanitarianism? Do you think many people responded to the pandemic in a similar way? Explain.
● Orion calls kindness a choice. What does he mean by that? Do you agree? Why or why not?
● In describing one of his campaigns, Orion says, “I don’t do this on my own.” Why does he give others credit for his work? What can his statements tell us about people who achieve big things?

EXTEND LEARNING
Ask students: Where does Orion’s inspiration come from? You might point out to students that Orion has followed the guidance of a teacher, and that he’s inspired by the people who have helped him in his efforts. Tell students that achievements like Orion’s are within reach for all kids—if they ask others for help.

Challenge students to think about campaigns they would like to start. Have them write detailed responses to these questions: What is your cause? What inspires you to help others? Who would your campaign help? How would it help them? Who would help you carry out the campaign, and why? Then partner students up. Have them take turns being either the interviewer or the Kid of the Year, discussing their campaigns. You may wish to have students record the interviews, then edit them for clarity to share with the class.

ENGAGE THE READER
Explain to the class that every year, in the same way that the magazine announces its Person of the Year, TIME also announces its Kid of the Year. Have students look at the article’s top image and read the brief introduction (the paragraph beginning with “The wait is Over!”). Ask: Why do you think TIME magazine selects a Kid of the Year? What else would you expect a Kid of the Year to have accomplished? Explain.

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.
For the Google Forms quiz, click here.
1. C (RI.1) 2. C (RI.8) 3. A (RI.4) 4. D (RI.3) 5. B (RI.1)
6. B (RI.6) 7. Answers will vary. (W.8)
NEW NUTRITION RULES
The new rules are meant to help cafeterias get back to serving more healthy meals.

LEXILE: 1080L (980L alternate reading level)
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Power, Authority, and Governance
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.5, RI.6-8.6, SL.6-8.1

BEFORE READING
Start a discussion with the class by asking: Why do schools provide meals for students? Why would administrators consider nutrition to be an important part of the school day? Have students read the article’s first paragraph. Ask: Who determines the standards for school nutrition? Why would the U.S. government be involved in school nutrition? How might the government’s decisions about school nutrition affect the country, now and in the future? As students read the article, have them note details that add to or challenge their initial responses.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
● Why have schools recently had trouble meeting nutrition standards? How does the USDA plan to help? Do you think the USDA’s plan will help schools? Explain.
● According to the article, some 30 million kids depend on free or low-cost school meals. How might this detail explain the government’s investment in school nutrition? What might be the long-term effects of the government’s decisions?

SPACE TRAINING
Meet two of NASA’s new astronaut recruits: Anil Menon and Christopher Williams.

LEXILE: 1080L (890L alternate reading level)
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Science, Technology, and Society
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.2, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, SL.6-8.1

BEFORE READING
Tell students that they will read about NASA’s newest astronaut recruits. Ask: What qualifications do you think are required to become an astronaut? Explain. Have students add to their initial responses as they read.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
● Compare Menon and Williams’s backgrounds. What makes these recruits suitable to become astronauts?
● Williams says, “Just because you haven’t done something before doesn’t mean you can’t get good at it.” How might this quote reflect his background? What can it tell us about the qualifications for becoming an astronaut?

EXTEND LEARNING
Have students review the Kid Report at the end of the article. Ask: Why is NASA committed to diversity among its astronaut corps? Why might it be important for the world to see people of different backgrounds among the astronauts who land on the moon? NASA deputy administrator Pam Melroy says “space is for everyone.” What does she mean? In what ways does space travel benefit humankind? Why should all people have access to the benefits that result from space exploration?
Use this week’s cover story, “Kid of the Year: Orion Jean,” to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

1. Orion Jean started his first kindness initiative by
   A. asking corporate donors for help raising funds.
   B. donating books in book deserts.
   C. using money he won in a speech contest.
   D. none of the above

4. What is the main purpose of Orion’s book-donation initiative?
   A. to teach people about different cultures
   B. to help unemployed people find jobs
   C. to elicit donations from corporations and other organizations
   D. to get books to kids in book deserts

2. Orion says solving a problem requires “just knowing deep down that it’s something you care about.” He says this in order to
   A. describe how he started his first kindness initiative.
   B. communicate how difficult it is to carry out big campaigns.
   C. inspire others to start getting involved with causes they believe in.
   D. argue that people should feel guilty for not getting involved in campaigns.

5. How does Orion relax when he’s not engaged in a campaign?
   A. playing various sports, like tennis
   B. playing musical instruments and video games
   C. watching television
   D. sleeping

3. Angelina Jolie asks Orion if he ever feels “overwhelmed or sad” when he witnesses unkindness. She likely asks him this in order to
   A. discover the emotions that drive a person who does humanitarian work.
   B. make the reader feel overwhelmed by unkindness in the world.
   C. find out about Orion’s next campaign.
   D. argue that kids should not be involved in humanitarian work.

6. Why is an interview an effective way to announce the TIME Kid of the Year?
   A. Jolie is a well-known actor and it makes the award credible.
   B. It allows Orion to present his work in his own words.
   C. Profile articles often include favorable opinions and interviews do not.
   D. all of the above

7. What do you think is Orion’s most distinguishing trait? Explain.

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