FINDING HER WAY
At the Winter Olympics, snowboarder Chloe Kim defended her gold medal. Her path to that moment wasn’t easy.

LEXILE: 950L (770L alternate reading level)
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individual Development and Identity
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.2, RI.6-8.5, RI.6-8.9, W.6-8.2

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

● How does the first paragraph establish the article’s focus and tone? Refer to specific details.

● Describe Kim’s experience in the cafe. Why do you think she felt this way? What can her experience tell us about competing at the Olympic level?

● Snowboarder Arielle Gold says of Kim, “She is the greatest women’s snowboarder of all time, by far.” Would you want to be called the greatest of all time for your accomplishments? Why or why not?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Have students review the article’s last paragraph. Ask: How do you think Kim felt about her Olympic performance from February 10? Explain. What do you think is the article’s central point about Olympic sports?

Open up a class discussion about the rise of sports figures explaining their mental health and the pressure of being an athlete. You may wish to connect the discussion with the article “A Win for Mental Health,” from October 8, 2021. This article features Simone Biles, an Olympic gymnast. Together, make connections to the age of these two athletes when they started their careers (they were both kids). Link the discussion to other athletes or individuals who have spoken out about the pressures of their careers and the sports industry, and to the overall importance of recognizing how the stress of life impacts us. Note healthy ways with which we can help ease those feelings.

ENGAGE THE READER
Before students read the article, show them the featured image and read the title aloud. Ask students to raise a hand if they know who the person featured in today’s article is. Explain that in the article, they are going to get an insider’s perspective from Chloe Kim, an Olympic gold-medal winner who discusses her journey of growth both on and off the mountain.

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide. For the Google Forms quiz, click here.
GRAY WOLVES RE-LISTED
Gray wolves are going back on the endangered-species list. A federal judge ruled that the animals still need protection.

LEXILE: 1080L (890L alternate reading level)
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Power, Authority, and Governance
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, RI.6-8.7

BEFORE READING
Prior to looking at this week’s article, have students read “Back to the Wild,” from April 16, 2021, to gain background information on the topic of gray wolves being on the endangered-species list. As a class, discuss what conditions would endanger wolf populations and weigh the two sides of the argument. Then explain that today’s article provides an update on the animal’s status. Once individuals have read the current article, use the discussion questions below to further engage them with the topic.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
• Not long before the Fish and Wildlife Service delisted the gray wolf in 2021, an official said, “The gray wolf has exceeded all conservation goals for recovery.” What does this tell us about how endangered-species listings are done?
• How did environmental groups succeed in getting the gray wolf back on the list?
• How do you think the recent ruling will affect wolves across the U.S.? Explain.

CHASING GREATNESS
A new basketball league promises teen players a shot at the NBA. Are the benefits worth the risks?

LEXILE: 1020L (870L alternate reading level)
NCSS STANDARD: Production, Distribution, and Consumption
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.8, W.6-8.1

BEFORE READING
Tell students that a new basketball league is paying kids ages 16 to 19 a six-figure salary and promising them a shot at making it to the NBA. Ask: Does this sound like a good deal for these kids? Why or why not?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
• Why might teenagers like Amen and Ausar Thompson take a chance with Overtime Elite?
• Why is Overtime investing in a basketball league? Do you expect the business to succeed? Why or why not?
• After reading the article, do you think Overtime Elite is offering its teen players a good deal? Explain.

WRITING ACTIVITY
Have students write a business plan from the point of view of either an Overtime CEO or an Overtime Elite player. The essay should answer these questions: 1) What do you expect to get out of the deal? 2) What risks are you taking? 3) Why do you think this is a fair deal? Ask for volunteers to share their business plans with the class. Then, start a discussion by asking: Who do you think is getting the better deal? Explain. What can we learn about business from the Overtime Elite deal?
1. According to the article, how old was Chloe Kim when she won her first Olympic gold medal?  
   A. 13  
   B. 17  
   C. 21  
   D. none of the above

2. The author’s purpose in the article’s first section is to  
   A. represent the experience of all Olympic athletes.  
   B. convey Kim’s experience, mainly from her perspective.  
   C. describe Kim’s experience, based on secondhand accounts.  
   D. tell how Kim discovered snowboarding.

3. Based on details in the article, Kim’s family likely continued to encourage her snowboarding because  
   A. they always dreamed of having an Olympic medalist in the family.  
   B. she was winning trophies at high-profile competitions.  
   C. she was pushing the boundaries of what’s possible in the sport.  
   D. she loved the sport from a young age.

4. Which quote from the article best captures Kim’s feelings about her sport while she was attending Princeton?  
   A. “I just wanted a day where I was left alone.”  
   B. “I was so burnt-out, I just couldn’t do it anymore.”  
   C. “Just being able to let those things out that you just tuck in your little secret part of your heart helps a lot.”  
   D. “I’m so excited. They’re an upgrade from everything I’ve done.”

5. Kim called some of the tricks she did at the recent Olympics “an upgrade from everything I’ve done.” She is suggesting that she  
   A. has continued to improve as snowboarder.  
   B. is ashamed of her past accomplishments.  
   C. is losing interest in snowboarding competition.  
   D. has new snowboard gear that is better than what she has used in past competitions.

6. The article’s last section is titled “Defying Gravity.” Which sentence from that section best captures the meaning of the title?  
   A. “. . . Chloe Kim became the first woman to land back-to-back 1080s at an Olympics.”  
   B. “A 1080 involves three full rotations in the air.”  
   C. “. . . while training in Switzerland, Kim accomplished another feat.”  
   D. “. . . she flipped herself upside down twice during an aerial rotation.”

7. Why is “Finding Her Way” an effective title for this article?