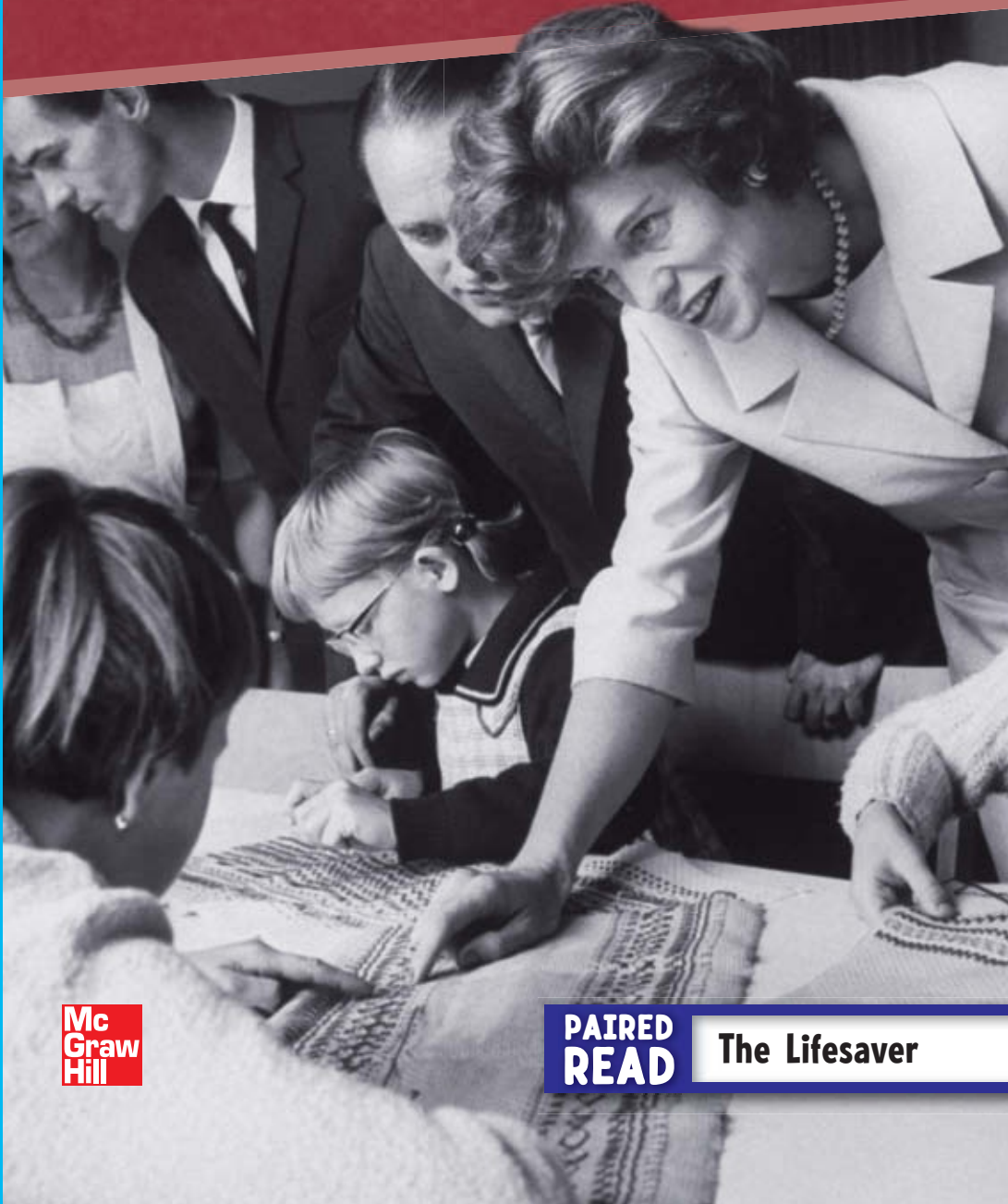


Biography

# Eunice Kennedy Shriver



*by Geoff Fairburn*



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**PAIRED  
READ**

**The Lifesaver**

# STRATEGIES & SKILLS

## Comprehension

**Strategy:** Ask and Answer Questions

**Skill:** Author's Point of View

## Vocabulary Strategy

Prefixes and Suffixes

## Vocabulary

citizenship, continues, daring, horrified, participate, proposed, unfairness, waver

## Content Standards

**Social Studies**

Civics and Government

Word count: 1,336\*\*

**Photography Credit:** Cover John Loengard/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images.

\*\*The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



## Education

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**Essential Question**

**What do good citizens do?**

# Eunice Kennedy Shriver




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# Introduction

On July 20, 1968, a very special event took place in Chicago. One thousand **athletes** from 26 states and Canada gathered for a sports event. There were around one hundred **spectators**. As the event began, a woman spoke to the athletes. She gave the athletes some words of wisdom. The words were, “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”



“In ancient Rome, the gladiators went into the arena with these words on their lips: let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt. Today, all of you young athletes are in the arena. Many of you will win. But even more important, I know you will be brave and bring credit to your parents and to your country.”

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*Eunice Kennedy Shriver (1968)*



Eunice Kennedy Shriver (left) was the founder of Special Olympics.

This was the opening of the very first Special Olympics Games. The one thousand athletes were all people with **intellectual disabilities**. Up to that time, people did not think they were able to take part in sports. One woman, however, knew what they could do. That woman was Eunice Kennedy Shriver. She had helped plan the games. She made the opening speech.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a remarkable woman. She worked to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

## Chapter 1 Growing Up

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1921. She was the fifth of nine children. Eunice's parents, Joseph and Rose, raised their children to love their family and to do their best. Eunice once said that her father's advice was to "win, win, win."

Eunice loved sports and was an excellent athlete. Her favorite sports were swimming and sailing. She played touch football with her brothers and always wanted to be the quarterback. All of Eunice's brothers and sisters would have fun and play sports, including her older sister Rosemary. Eunice loved to sail with Rosemary and win races together.

**Eunice (far right) loved to play football with her brothers.**

CORBIS





**Eunice (left) and her sister Rosemary (right) had a special relationship.**

Rosemary Kennedy was born with mental challenges. She was slow to develop and learn. As she grew older, her family had trouble taking care of her at home. When Rosemary was in her twenties, she had a brain operation. Her family had hoped the operation would help her improve, but it did not work. Rosemary lived in a special home but spent a lot of time with her family and loved to swim.

Eunice loved her sister Rosemary and was glad she grew up with her. Eunice said that if she had never met Rosemary, she would not have known anything about children with intellectual disabilities. People with disabilities were often hidden away. Many were sent to **institutions**. They didn't have the chance to go to school or work. They were not encouraged to take part in community activities, make friends, or compete in athletic events.

Eunice Shriver felt the unfairness of this. She wanted to make life better for people like her sister Rosemary.

**Today, children living with intellectual disabilities have the chance to go to schools, make friends, and play sports.**





## Chapter 2 A Life of Public Service



Eunice thought that sports, exercise, and fun could make people's lives better.

In 1953, Eunice married Sargent Shriver, becoming Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Eunice and Sargent became the parents of five children; Robert, Maria, Timothy, Mark, and Anthony. While raising her family, Eunice still found time to help people living with intellectual disabilities.

For many years, Eunice ran the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. This was a family **charity** set up in 1946. Under Eunice's leadership, the foundation studied the causes of intellectual disabilities. It looked for better ways to treat people facing such challenges.

When her brother John F. Kennedy became president of the United States, Eunice asked for his help. She believed that the government should do more research into the causes of disabilities. She also felt that there needed to be more schools and training programs for people with intellectual disabilities. In 1963, President Kennedy signed a bill that helped meet these goals.



**Eunice (right) was present when President Kennedy (left) signed a bill to help people with intellectual disabilities.**

Bettmann/CORBIS

## THE KENNEDY BROTHERS

The Kennedy family was very involved in government. Eunice's brother John F. Kennedy became president of the United States in 1961. He was president until November 1963, when he was killed while visiting Dallas, Texas.

Robert F. Kennedy was attorney general from 1961 to 1964. He ran for president in 1968. He was killed in June 1968. Edward Kennedy was a senator for Massachusetts for 47 years.

One of the most important things that Eunice did was to talk and write about intellectual disabilities. In 1962, Eunice wrote an article for the *Saturday Evening Post*. She wrote about growing up with her sister Rosemary. She described how horrified she was by the way people with disabilities were treated.

Eunice also said that people with intellectual disabilities were able to do many things. With special education and training, they could be active members of the community.

At the time, people did not know much about intellectual disabilities. Eunice helped them understand.

John Loengard/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images



## LEARNING FROM ROSEMARY

“Those of us who have seen children live in the shadows know that a country as rich as ours cannot possibly justify this neglect.”



*President John F. Kennedy  
(1961)*

## Chapter 3 From Camp Shriver to the Special Olympics



Camp Shriver was started as a place where everyone could have fun and play sports.

In 1962, Eunice had a phone call from the mother of a child with an intellectual disability. The mother couldn't find a summer camp for her child. Eunice decided to help. She started a summer camp at her home in Maryland.

The camp was called Camp Shriver. It was free for intellectually challenged children. Other children were also welcomed. There were lots of fun and games. There were plenty of people to help out. Eunice took part in the fun. She swam and played ball with the children. Camps like Camp Shriver were set up around the country.

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation funded Camp Shriver and hundreds of other camps. The camps were a success. Next, Eunice proposed that a sports event be held for children with disabilities. This sports event became the first Special Olympics.

The first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in 1968. When the games took place, the Mayor of Chicago said that the world would never be the same.



## THE FIRST SPECIAL OLYMPICS GAMES

One thousand athletes from 26 states and Canada competed in track and swimming. Swimming included 25-meter races, and track had short-distance running, ball throws, and standing long jump.



Eunice loved sports and was a friend to all Special Olympics athletes.

As Eunice opened the first Special Olympics Games, she believed in the athletes, and she hoped that others would, too. Today, almost 4 million athletes participate in Special Olympics in over 170 countries. Once it was thought that they could not compete. Now they train and compete in sports and do their best to win. Special Olympics continues to grow. It has millions of fans around the world.

Special Olympics helped to change people's minds about the **capabilities** of those who live with intellectual disabilities.

Today, people with intellectual disabilities are able to go to school and get jobs. These are people that were once hidden away. Now they are celebrated for their **achievements**.

This change for the better began with the efforts of one woman, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. She spent her life working for people with intellectual disabilities. She did not waver. She was determined to improve their lives.



More than 7,500 athletes attended the Special Olympics in China in 2007. Eunice was there, too.

“By your presence, you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope, a message of victory. The right to play on any playing field? You have earned it. The right to study in any school? You have earned it. The right to hold a job? You have earned it. The right to be anyone’s neighbor? You have earned it.”

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver*



Like Nelson Mandela (left), Eunice Kennedy Shriver sent a message of hope to the world.

During her lifetime, Eunice was recognized for her many achievements and her good citizenship. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver died in August of 2009. Her work had changed the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. She had given them a chance to compete and to win.

## TIME LINE

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1921 | Born   |
| 1943 | Graduates from Stanford University   |
| 1951 | Moves to Chicago; marries Sargent Shriver                                  |
| 1957 | Becomes director of Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation                       |
| 1961 | Brother John F. Kennedy becomes president of the United States             |
| 1962 | First Camp Shriver held  |
| 1963 | Mental Health Bill signed, October 24<br>John F. Kennedy dies, November 22 |
| 1968 | Robert F. Kennedy dies, June 6<br>First Special Olympics held, July 20     |
| 1984 | Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Ronald Reagan           |
| 2009 | Dies August 11   |



# Respond to Reading

## Summarize

Use details from *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* to summarize the text. Your graphic organizer may help you.

Details

↓

Point of View

## Text Evidence

1. How do you know that *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* is a biography? **GENRE**
2. What is the author's opinion of Eunice Kennedy Shriver? What words or phrases in the text tell you this? **AUTHOR'S POINT OF VIEW**
3. What does the word *encouraged* on page 6 mean? Use the prefix to help you figure out the meaning. **PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES**
4. Write about the type of language the author uses to show you how he feels about Eunice Kennedy Shriver. **WRITE ABOUT READING**

### **Compare Texts**

Read about a man who dedicated his life to water safety.



## **THE LIFESAVER**

When you see a lifeguard at a pool or a beach, you can thank Wilbert (Bert) E. Longfellow. He helped to “waterproof” America.

In 1900, Bert was working as a newspaper reporter in Rhode Island. As part of his job, he wrote stories about people who had drowned. Bert was horrified by the loss of life. He saw that people wanted to have fun and be daring in the water. Yet few people knew how to swim.

When Bert was only 19, he decided to help. He joined the U.S. Volunteer Lifesaving Corps. Bert learned basic lifesaving. He helped rescue people who got into trouble in the water. Bert also began teaching others. He traveled the country to teach water safety.



**Wilbert E. Longfellow (center) shows trainees a water rescue technique in 1915.**

Bert had to stop teaching water safety in 1907. He was told that he was very sick with a bone disease. However, Bert was determined to get better. He knew that sunshine was good for the bones, so he spent time outside every day. Amazingly, Bert did get better, and he worked even harder to achieve his goal.

Bert wanted to teach water safety to everyone in the United States. He asked the American Red Cross for help, and they agreed. Bert started the Red Cross Lifesaving Service. He set up swimming and lifesaving programs at local Red Cross chapters across the country.

Thanks to Bert, the number of drowning deaths in the United States continued to fall. This happened even though more and more people took part in water activities. The American Red Cross became the world leader in teaching lifesaving. Today, lifeguards still train for the Red Cross Lifesaving Certificate. The Red Cross still teaches swimming to people of all ages.



Red Cross lifeguards patrol pools, lakes, and beaches to keep swimmers safe.



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### Make Connections

What qualities did Wilbert E. Longfellow have that made him a good citizen? **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

What qualities did Bert Longfellow share with Eunice Kennedy Shriver? **TEXT TO TEXT**

# Glossary

**achievements** (*uh-CHEEV-ments*) things done with great effort and courage (**page 13**)

**athletes** (*ATH-leets*) people who are trained or skilled in sports or games (**page 2**)

**capabilities** (*kay-puh-BIL-i-teez*) skills and strengths that can be used and developed (**page 12**)

**charity** (*CHAYR-uh-tee*) an organization that helps people who are poor, sick, or face other challenges (**page 7**)

**institutions** (*in-sti-TEW-shuhns*) places that care for people who are unable to care for themselves (**page 6**)

**intellectual disabilities** (*in-tuh-LEK-chew-uhl dis-uh-BIL-i-teez*) conditions of the mind that make it hard for people to do or understand things in the normal way (**page 3**)

**spectators** (*SPEK-tay-turz*) people who look on or watch (**page 2**)

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# Focus on Social Studies

**Purpose** To create a biographical time line

## What to Do

**Step 1**

Good citizens make time to help other people. They work to make their community and their country better. Choose a person you think has been a good citizen.

**Step 2**

Research the life of the person. Write down five or six key events in his or her life. Write the dates that the events happened. Use the chart to help you.

Date	Event
Date	Event
Date	Event

**Step 3**

Create a time line of the life of your good citizen. Order the events by date, from first to last.

**Conclusion** What did the time line tell you about the life of your good citizen?

# Thinkmark

## The Topic

What is this book mostly about?

## Sequence of Information

In what order does the author tell the story of *Eunice Kennedy Shriver*?

## Key Vocabulary

What are the key words in *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* that relate to the topic?

## Author's Purpose

Why did the author write *Eunice Kennedy Shriver*?

## Make Connections

How is *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* like other biographies you have read?

Grade 3 • Unit 5 Week 4

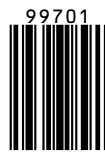
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