



## John F. Kennedy the Brave

By Sheila Keenan

GRL N

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

John F. Kennedy came from a wealthy family, but he did not have an easy life. He was sickly as a child. He nearly died, and his older brother was killed in World War II. But Kennedy did not let any of this stop him. He became a successful politician. He got married and had children. But he wanted to do more to help people. So he became the youngest president in US history in 1960, and his ideas are still important to Americans.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the beginning of this book, the author says that John Kennedy's life was like one of the adventure stories Kennedy read as a boy. Why did the author say this? Give some examples from the book that show how Kennedy's life was like an adventure story. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational Text): RIT.K.1., RIT.K.8., RIT.1.1., RIT.1.8., RIT.2.1., RIT.2.8., RIT.3.1.*
2. What happened to John Kennedy in World War II? How did that experience help him decide to become a politician? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational Text): RIT.K.1., RIT.K.3., RIT.1.1., RIT.1.3., RIT.2.1., RIT.2.3., RIT.3.1., RIT.3.3.*
3. The first part of this book tells the story of Kennedy's life. The back part of this book also tells the story of Kennedy's life, but in a different way. How are these two sections of the book the same? How are they different? Which part of the book is the most interesting to you? Why? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational Text): RIT.K.7., RIT.1.7., RIT.2.7., RIT.3.7.*
4. On page 25, there is a famous quote from John Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." What do you think this means? Why do you think the author chose to end the story of Kennedy's life with this quote? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational Text): RIT.K.1., RIT.1.1., RIT.1.4., RIT.2.1., RIT.2.4., RIT.3.1., RIT.3.4.*

*Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) that discussions might also address: SL.K.1.a–b., SL.K.2., SL.K.6., SL.1.1a–c., SL.1.2., SL.1.6., SL.2.1.a–c., SL.2.2., SL.2.6., SL.3.1.a–d., SL.3.6.*

### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

**Ask What You Can Do:** John F. Kennedy wanted to make the world a better place. What did he do in his life to try to make the world better? What can people do now to make the world a better place? Make a poster using words and pictures to show what you and other kids can do to make the world a better place. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational Text): RIT.K.1., RIT.1.1., RIT.2.1., RIT.3.1.; (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2.*

**Tell the Story:** This book tells the story of John Kennedy's life. When he was young, he didn't know that he would grow up to be a president. Do you ever wonder who you will grow up to be? Write or dictate a story about who you think you will be when you are grown up. Where will you live? Where will you work? What important things will happen to you? What important things will you want to do? Draw a picture of you as a grown-up to go with your story. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.3.*

**Pick a Picture:** Look at the photographs of John Kennedy included in the back of the book. Choose the photo that you like best. Write or dictate a paragraph explaining why you like that photo and what it tells you about Kennedy's life. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1.*

**A Bit of Biography:** A book like this one that tells the true story of a real person's life is called a biography. Find some other biographies and read them. Then decide which of those biographies is your favorite. Draw a picture of a scene from that book. Then write or dictate a paragraph to go with your picture encouraging other people to read and enjoy that biography too. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational Text): RIT.K.9., RIT.1.9., RIT.3.9.; (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1.*

*Common Core State Standards (Writing) that writing activities might also address: W.K.5., W.K.6., W.1.5., W.1.6., W.2.5., W.2.6., W.3.4., W.3.5., W.3.6.*

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