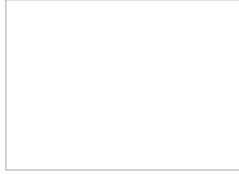


Curriculum Connections for *Games of Deception*

Curriculum Connections for Games of Deception

[Suzanne Libra]



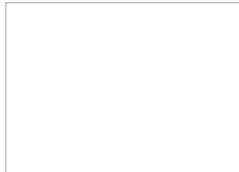
Curriculum Connections brings you a go-to set of curated resources, lesson plans, and author insights to help you introduce and share quality literature with your students and teachers. Books are selected by SLC's editing team based on advanced copies of the titles and reviews from their school librarian reviewers.

From *New York Times* bestselling author Andrew Maraniss comes the YA nonfiction account of the first U.S. Olympic basketball team at the 1936 Olympics. Set in Hitler's Germany, *Games of Deception* (Philomel Books 2019) takes the reader from the birth of basketball to its debut as an Olympic sport, all the while following the story of the 14 American basketball players as they navigate the excitement of the games against the complexities of the political propaganda and entrenched racism both at home and in Nazi Germany.



To help you make the most of this YA release in the library and classroom, we're sharing some great new resources that will pair well with *Games of Deception*:

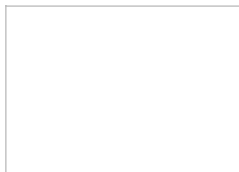
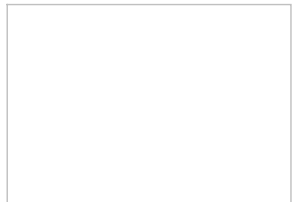
- Get inspired with curriculum ideas and recommended nonfiction and fiction book pairings from high school librarian Suzanne Libra, below.
- Help students understand the role racism and anti-Semitism played in the 1936 Olympics with ABC-CLIO's new Investigate Activity on History Hub, "[Controversy in the 1936 Olympics](#)," and its associated [Library Resources](#).
- Grab one of our new ready-to-go and easily adapted research lesson plans, "[Health and Basketball](#)" and "[Sports News](#)" to share with your language arts, social studies, and physical education teaching partners.
- Learn more about Andrew Maraniss's creation process with our exclusive [author interview](#).



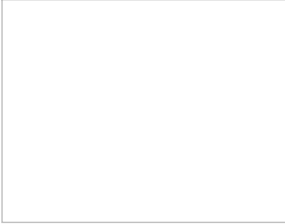
Book Pairings & Curriculum Ideas from School Librarian Suzanne Libra

World War II is often a favorite subject for students. Maraniss's book, *Games of Deception* about the 1936 Olympics joins the drama of the prewar period to the spectacle of sport. Introduce students to early basketball by watching the tournament segment of the Canadian video on the 1936 Olympics games, available on YouTube. Students can then begin reading Maraniss's book with those visuals in mind.

There has been a host of great books recently that include information on the 1936 Olympics that can be paired with this text. *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown (Puffin Books 2016) focuses on the rowing team. Steve Sheinkin's *Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian Boarding School Football Team* (Roaring Brook Press 2017) provides a great compare/contrast book because it focuses on the development of a sport and the roll of discrimination in sports. *Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Laura Hillenbrand (Random House 2014) is another great choice for a highly readable book not only about the 1936 Olympics, but also about sports and the benefits of sports in general. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has a page on the 1936 Olympics, including a great list of biographies about various Olympians and their experiences (www.ushmm.org/collections/bibliography/1936-olympics).



Maraniss also discusses how many Americans supported boycotting the Olympics. Students could look at the 1980 and 1984 Olympics and compare them to the 2014 Sochi Olympics to consider if boycotts are warranted and effective. The books *Black Power Salute: How a Photograph Captured a Political Protest* by Danielle Smith-Llera (Compass Point Books 2017) and *Massacre in Munich: How Terrorists Changed the Olympics and the World* by Don Nardo (Compass Point Books 2016) look at times when political protests and violence affected the Olympics. Students could also research how athletes have protested, from Muhammad Ali to Colin Kaepernick. Walter Dean Myers' biography of Muhammad Ali, *The Greatest* (Scholastic 2001), would be a great start.



One intriguing fact in Maraniss's book is that the 1936 Olympics debuted the Olympic torch ritual (this photo shows a Greek runner carrying the torch at a stadium in Delphi, Greece, before the start of the 1936 Olympics). Students could research the history of the modern Olympics and the development of its rituals. They could also explore rituals in other sporting events: March Madness, the NFL Draft, the seventh-inning stretch, etc. Students could choose a ritual and complete a mini-research project on how that ritual developed, who initiated it, and why they think it persists. Students could also look at controversial symbols, from the swastika to the Cleveland Indians' Chief Wahoo, and discuss their importance. Students could create their own logo to replace a controversial logo and explain why it would be a good choice.

This book also lends itself to a look at propaganda and "fake news." Was the Berlin of 1936 a Potemkin Village? What is a Potemkin Village? How did Terezin play a role in Nazi propaganda? Students can explore more about Nazi propaganda through the documentary film, *The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl* (Kino on Video 1993), about Hitler's film maker. They could also review online videos of recent opening ceremonies, such as for the 2008 Beijing Olympics or the 2012 London Olympics, and consider how they promote their host countries. What are the similarities and differences between these and the 1936 Olympics?

About the Author

Suzanne Libra is a teacher librarian at Silver Hills Middle School in Westminster, Colorado.

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