Teaching News Is Elementary
February 17, 2017

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times print replica, computer or smart board, pencils or pens, paper

Article: NBA's Little Big Man
Section: SPORTS, C1
Print Replica Date: Sunday, February 12, 2017

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1
Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Objectives:
Students will read an article, and search for personal connections or lessons they see in their own lives.

Pre- Reading Discussion:

An **inference**, *is making a conclusion or opinion that is formed because of known facts or evidence* Examine the following pictures and make an *inference* about what the story will be about:

What do you see? Who is in the pictures? What emotions do you see? What do you see in the background that would help you with what the article will be about? What questions do you have about the photos? Does it bring up any personal memories?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think **frenetic** means using *context clues*? A *context clue* is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

 "Thomas' 29.9 points per game are 3.4 more than Adams ever averaged and 4.3 points more than Murphy ever did, and those guys played at a far more ***frenetic*** pace."

Frenetic Guess:

Frenetic Definition:

Reading Comprehension:

1. There have been successful NBA players under 6 feet — Calvin Murphy and Michael Adams to name two — but none has had a season as impressive as Isaiah's. How many points does Thomas average per game?
2. Did Thomas' high-school and college basketball coaches predict a possible NBA MVP?
3. What did Thomas open at the Al Davies Boys and Girls Club in Tacoma on Friday?
4. What feelings were expressed during his speech? What did he say? How does he feel about Tacoma, where he grew up? What was his primary message?
5. Seattle University basketball coach Cameron Dollar, who recruited Thomas to UW and coached him for a year, remembers the day Isaiah signed a four-year, $27 million contract with Phoenix in 2014. He was officially set for life, so Dollar sent a congratulatory text. What was Thomas' text back to Dollar?
6. Isaiah, who is likely two off seasons away from signing a nine-figure contract, says he wants to win what?

Journal Writing Prompts:

"The NBA has been generating a lot of "bles" lately."

Russell Westbrook is **incredible**, LeBron James is **unstoppable** and Stephen Curry is **unbelievable**. Kevin Durant is **unguardable**, James Harden is **remarkable**, and as a two-way player, Kawhi Leonard is **incomparable**. But what about the 28-year-old Thomas? What about a 5-foot-9 point guard who is leading the NBA in fourth-quarter scoring while catapulting the Celtics to a 35-19 record? I'll tell you what he is — ***impossible***.

I want you to think of the "bles" you possess in your own life. Write a list of 5 words ending in "ble" that express who you are as an individual and explain why they are linked to who you are.