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This story is about one of the best figure skaters of all time. Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.



Michelle Kwan

Picture this. You are gliding on top of ice. You speed up. Then you leap into the air. You try to land on your feet. Instead, you land on your knees. Think how that would feel. What would you do? Would you lie there? Or, would you get up and try again? Skater Michelle Kwan has faced this decision many times. Each time she decided to get back up and try the leap again. This determination and hard work helped her to become a great skater. Some say she is one of the world's best figure skaters.

Michelle Kwan was born July 7, 1980, in California. Her parents came from Hong Kong. The family owned a Chinese restaurant. Her older sister Karen was also an ice skater.

At the age of 5, Michelle began to ice skate. She won her first figure skating competition at age 7. Figure skating is ice skating with dancelike movements set to music. The skater also performs a series of jumps and spins. Michelle began to seriously train at age 8. Michelle practiced three to four hours a day. She woke up at 3 A.M. to skate

before school. She also returned to the *rink* after school to practice again.

Paying for the time spent at the skating rink cost a lot of money. Michelle's parents were not rich. When Michelle was 10, her parents could no longer afford a private coach. But they wanted their daughters to become great skaters. Other people wanted them to develop their talent, too. A figure skating club allowed the girls to train at their center. The center was called the Ice Castle International Training Center.

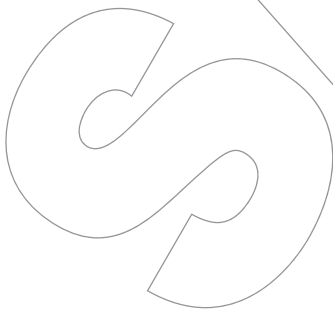
Michelle soon began to skate in major competitions. In 1993, she was in the U.S. Nationals. She was the youngest senior skater in the competition since 1973.

Michelle set many figure skating records. She won eight consecutive U.S. Championships (1998–2005). She also won five World Championship Titles. Michelle is the only female skater to reclaim the world title three times. The judges gave her performances perfect scores. She received 57 perfect scores. That was a record.

These were not Michelle's only successes on the ice. In 1998, she won a silver medal at the Olympics. Four years later, Michelle won a bronze medal at the 2002 Olympics.

Off the ice, Michelle had many achievements. In 1997, she published her life story. It was titled *Michelle Kwan: My Story—Heart of a Champion*. She was appointed a public diplomacy envoy in 2006. For this job, she travels around the world to talk about education and health. She also became the national voice for "Champions Across America." This program helps children with medical needs celebrate their talents. Somehow, Michelle also found time to graduate from college in 2009.

Michelle Kwan is a role model for many people. She may have fallen on the ice a few times, but she kept trying. She continued to practice. She has become one of the best female ice skaters of all time.





Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. Read each one and then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you're not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. Which of the following is not true about Michelle Kwan?

- (A) She won eight consecutive U.S. Championships.
- (B) She trained at the Ice Castle International Training Center.
- (C) She began skating at age 5.
- (D) She did not have the support of her family to encourage her.

Inference

2. At what age did Michelle Kwan begin to seriously train?

- (A) 10 years old
- (B) 9 years old
- (C) 8 years old
- (D) 5 years old

Factual

3. A *rink* is a

- (A) building that is very cold
- (B) frozen body of water where people ice skate
- (C) large piece of cement where people run
- (D) gym

Critical Reasoning

4. The next to last paragraph is mainly about Michelle's

- (A) accomplishments off the ice
- (B) book titled *Michelle Kwan: My Story—Heart of a Champion*
- (C) being appointed the public diplomacy envoy
- (D) becoming the national spokesperson for "Champions Across America"

Inference

5. Which event happened last?

- (A) Michelle won a silver medal at the Olympics.
- (B) Michelle published a book.
- (C) Michelle graduated from college.
- (D) Michelle won a bronze medal at the Olympics.

Inference

6. How many Olympic medals did Michelle Kwan win?

- (A) five
- (B) three
- (C) two
- (D) zero

Factual

7. Which of the following most likely contributed to Michelle's skating success?

- (A) She went to college.
- (B) Her sister also skated.
- (C) She was young.
- (D) She was dedicated to her training.

Critical Reasoning

8. Paragraph 6 is mostly about Michelle's

- (A) accomplishments on the ice
- (B) accomplishments off the ice
- (C) family
- (D) education

Inference

9. Michelle Kwan is best known as

- (A) a writer
- (B) an athlete
- (C) a role model
- (D) a world traveler

Critical Reasoning

10. Michelle Kwan was the only woman to

- (A) reclaim the world title three times
- (B) begin training as a child
- (C) win medals and titles for ice skating
- (D) write an autobiography

Factual

SAMPLE



Summing Up



Michelle Kwan was often interviewed by newspapers and magazines. Interviewers jot down notes to answer the 5 W's of reporting: **who, what, where, when, why**. Below are thought bubbles to answer the 5 W's for Michelle Kwan. The sixth bubble is to show what advice Kwan might have for young people today. Complete the graphic organizer by jotting down notes to fill in the bubbles.



Who

What

Where

When

Why

Advice for Young People



Write About It

When a reporter interviews a subject, he or she needs information that answers the 5 W's of journalism—**who, what, where, when, why**. *Who* is the subject of the interview? *What* has the subject done? *Where* did the subject do it? *When* was it done? *Why* did the subject do it? Then when the reporter writes an article based on the interview, all the important facts are listed and ready to be included.

Imagine that you have been sent by your school newspaper to interview Michelle Kwan. What would you like to ask her? What advice could she give you and your classmates? Where it says *Interviewer* on the lines below, write the questions you would ask Michelle Kwan. Remember the 5 W's as you ask your questions. Write Michelle's response where it says *Michelle Kwan*. Use your ideas from the graphic organizer on page 24 and facts from the story to help you.

Interviewer:

Michelle Kwan:

Interviewer:

Michelle Kwan:

Interviewer:

Michelle Kwan:
