

ACTIVITIES BASED ON

THE NIGHT OLYMPIC TEAM

by Caroline Hatton

Reading, Writing, Debate, Art

for U.S. Grade 5 and up unless otherwise indicated

READING

The Night Olympic Team is an Accelerated Reader book. At schools that use the Accelerated Reader program, students choose Accelerated Reader books, read them at their own pace, take a quiz, and teachers get immediate feedback on individual students' reading progress. For *The Night Olympic Team*, Quiz No. 121674 is available from www.renlearn.com (click on Accelerated Reader, then on Order Quizzes).

WRITING

1. Create a motto for the Night Olympic Team.

A motto is a short expression of a guiding principle, goal, or ideal.

- To create a motto, first, research the mottos of different Olympics or organizations fighting doping in sports. Examples are...

2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City: *Light The Fire Within*

2008 Olympic Summer Games in Beijing: *One World One Dream*

Paralympics: *Spirit in Motion*

World Anti-Doping Agency: *Play True*

- Second, brainstorm a list of words that represent what the scientists stand for or what they are hoping to achieve: respect, truth, clean sport, what else?
- Then choose the most important or inspiring words, and try to put them together in a way that sounds good and means a lot. It might help to write each word on a small piece of paper so you can shuffle them easily.

2. Write about a time when someone else cheated and it was not fair to you.

What happened? How did that make you feel?

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3. Grades 8-12. Imagine and write about a time when you have a choice to cheat or not, in sports. List, for each choice, the values on which it would be based, and the potential consequences. Then write an imaginary story.

4. Plan a smarter lifestyle!

- Read the Sports Smarts on page 48 of *The Night Olympic Team*.
- Does your current lifestyle follow each tip? Explain your answers.
- Pick one tip on which to improve.
- For example, you could pick one habit to change to make your lifestyle healthier. What challenges might you face and what is your plan for overcoming them?

5. Make science an adventure!

Write about a scientist making an exciting discovery.

- Put readers in the scientist's shoes, by using your senses and making sure readers can tell how the scientist feels.
- Create suspense by delaying revelation.

Note: This kind of writing is appropriate for fiction or narrative nonfiction, not for a technical report.

DEBATE

Grades 8-12. Have students research pro or con arguments on the issue of whether performance enhancing drugs (such as steroids) should be accepted in sports. Use <http://sportsanddrugs.procon.org/> as a resource; it's an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit website whose mission is to promote critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship by presenting pros and cons as stated by experts. Then have students role play pro or con figures, and debate classmates.

ART ACTIVITIES

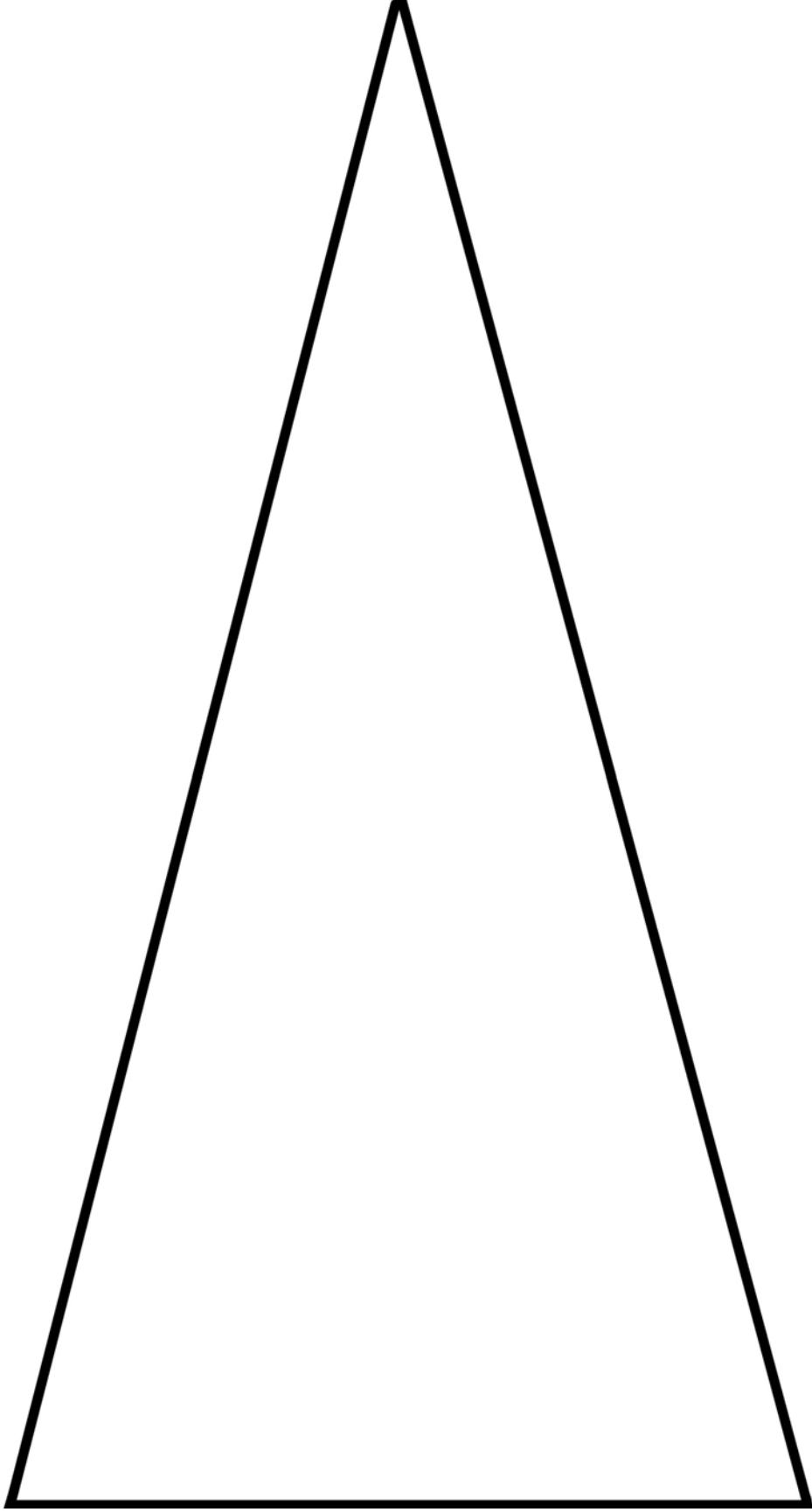
1. Create a pennant for the Night Olympic Team. *Credit: Grace Nall, teacher, San Diego CA.*

- Research the pennants of a few schools or teams. Note the characteristic shape of a pennant.
- Think of what the scientists stand for: excellence, health and fitness, what else?
- Sketch some pictures to represent those values.
- Create a pennant that celebrates some of those values, shown in words or pictures.

See page 3 for reproducible.

2. Design a "Sports Smarts" poster based on page 48 of the book, *The Night Olympic Team*. Show your creativity and artistic talent. Illustrate the tips. Inspire students to practice a healthy lifestyle.

from www.carolinehatton.com



Name: _____

Room: _____