

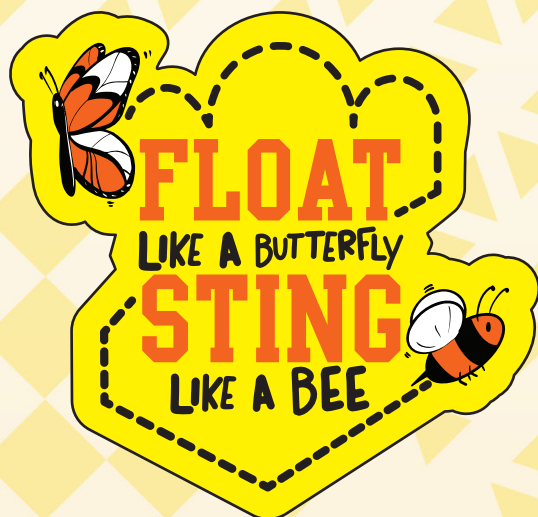
**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF MUHAMMAD ALI

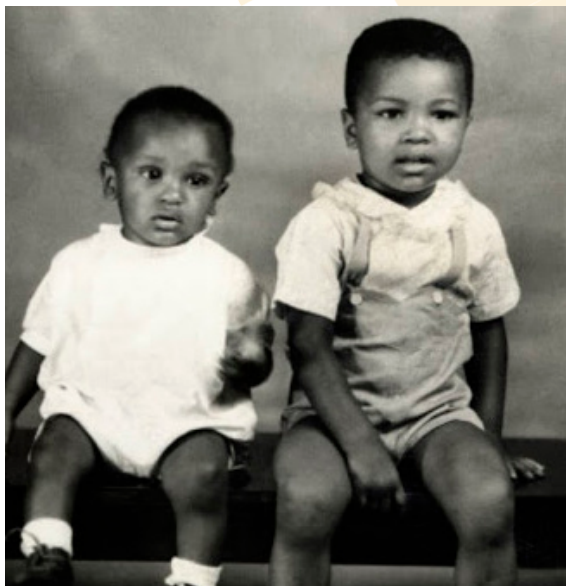
AGES 9-12



BOTWC MINI POSING AS
MUHAMMAD ALI



FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY...



Ali and brother Rudy.

Early Years

One of the greatest athletes in the world was American former heavyweight champion boxer, **philanthropist**, and activist Muhammad Ali.

Muhammad Ali was born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., in Louisville, Kentucky on January 17, 1942.

Before he became an Olympic gold medalist and the first fighter to capture the heavyweight title three times, Ali's boxing inspiration came from a bike theft.

12-year-old Cassius was sitting on the steps of the Columbia Auditorium, crying and angry. Somebody had stolen his new red and white Schwinn bike.



Schwinn Bike

A man who witnessed Cassius crying told the boy that he could tell a nearby police officer, who happened to be in the building's basement, where he also operated a boxing gym.

Joe Martin, the police officer that Cassius met that day, would teach Cassius how to box, also marking the beginning of Cassius' boxing career. Six weeks later, Cassius won his first boxing bout.

Cassius won two national Golden Gloves titles, two Amateur Athletic Union national titles and 100 victories against eight losses, by the age of eighteen. After graduating from high school, he traveled to Rome and won the light heavyweight gold medal in the 1960 **Summer Olympics**.

The 6-foot-3-inch heavyweight used a combination of quick, powerful jabs and foot speed, and confidence and commentary earned him the nickname "Louisville Lip."

After winning his first 19 fights, including 15 knockouts, Cassius received his first title shot on February 25, 1964, against reigning **heavyweight champion** Sonny Liston (1932-1970).

The 22-year-old **underdog** Clay relentlessly taunted Liston before the fight, promising to "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" and predicting a knockout. Cassius won this fight and was indeed crowned heavyweight champion of the world. In the ring after the fight, the new champ roared, "I am the greatest!"



Muhammad Ali & Malcolm X

Cassius also became a member of the **controversial** Nation of Islam. On March 6, 1964, **Nation of Islam** leader Elijah Muhammad (1897-1975) bestowed on Clay the name of Muhammad Ali.

The Activist

Muhammad Ali was a civil rights activist, befriending and seen campaigning with historical figures like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

...STING LIKE A BEE

Ali spoke out about injustices occurring in Black and Brown communities and pushed back against The Vietnam War. During his career, he made goodwill missions to Afghanistan and North Korea, delivered medical supplies to an **embargoed** Cuba, and even travelled to Iraq to secure the release of 15 US hostages during the first Gulf War.

The Greatest

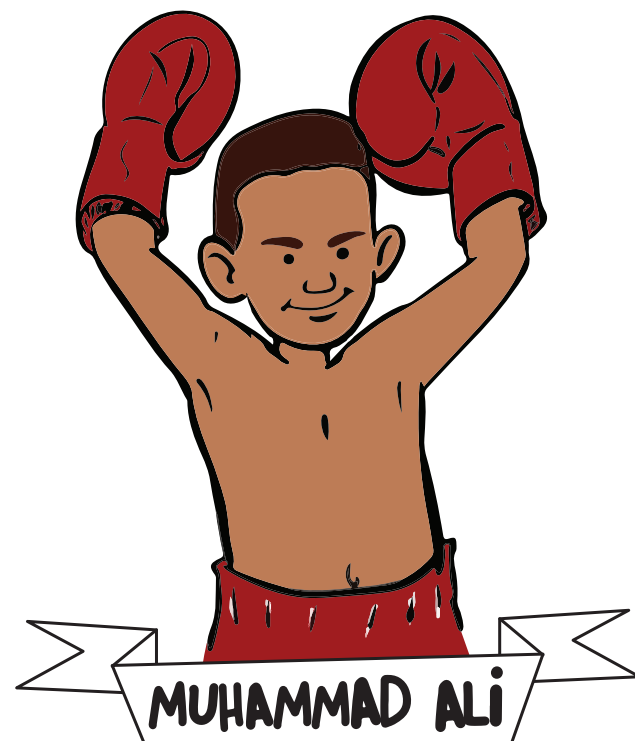
Muhammad Ali compiled a record of 56 wins, including 37 knockouts (KOs), and five losses. Muhammad Ali has appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated 38 times, second only to basketball great Michael Jordan.

Ali was honored many times during his career: The honor of lighting the cauldron during the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, voted the BBC's "Sporting Personality of the Century," named "Fighter of the Year" five times by Ring Magazine, inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, Sports Illustrated named him "Sportsman of the Century," awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in a 2005 White House ceremony, and in the same year the \$60 million Muhammad Ali Center, a **nonprofit** museum and cultural center focusing on peace and social responsibility, opened in Louisville, Kentucky.

Ali was also a **multi-hyphenate**, like Kobe Bryant, Will Smith, and Queen Latifah. He had many other talents that he pursued, during his boxing career.

He released an album, I Am The Greatest, in 1963, when he was still known as Cassius Clay, six months before he defeated Sonny Liston to claim the World Heavyweight Title for the first time. It included a cover of Ben E. King's Stand By Me. Cassius also starred in a Broadway musical, titled Buck White.

During Muhammad Ali's career, he changed the lives of many **mentees**, aspiring athletes, and communities that benefited from his philanthropic **endeavors**. He also leaves behind a legacy in the philanthropy and accomplishments of his nine children, who are authors, musicians, entrepreneurs and undefeated professional boxer Laila Ali.



GLOSSARY

Philanthropist: a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.

Heavyweight Champion: a professional boxer weighing more than 175 pounds (79 kg).

Controversial: giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement.

Nation of Islam: an African American political and religious movement, founded in Detroit, Michigan, United States, by Wallace D. Fard Muhammad on July 4, 1930.

Embargoed: imposed an official ban on trade, a country, or commodity.

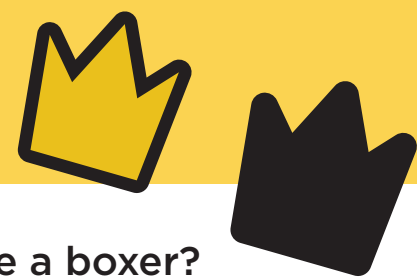
NonProfit: not making or conducted primarily to make a profit.

Multi-Hyphenate: a person, especially a celebrity, with several professions or skills.

Mentee: a person who is advised, trained, or counseled by a mentor.

Endeavors: an attempt to achieve a goal.

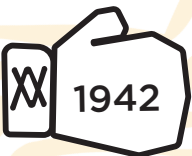
READ & RESPOND



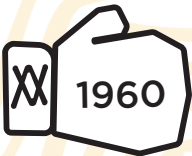
1. What moment inspired Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) to become a boxer?
Use two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

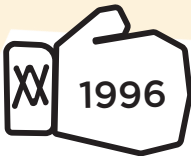
2. Based on the text, what do you think the word multi-hyphenate means?
Use two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. Create a timeline of Muhammad Ali’s accomplishments, based on the text.









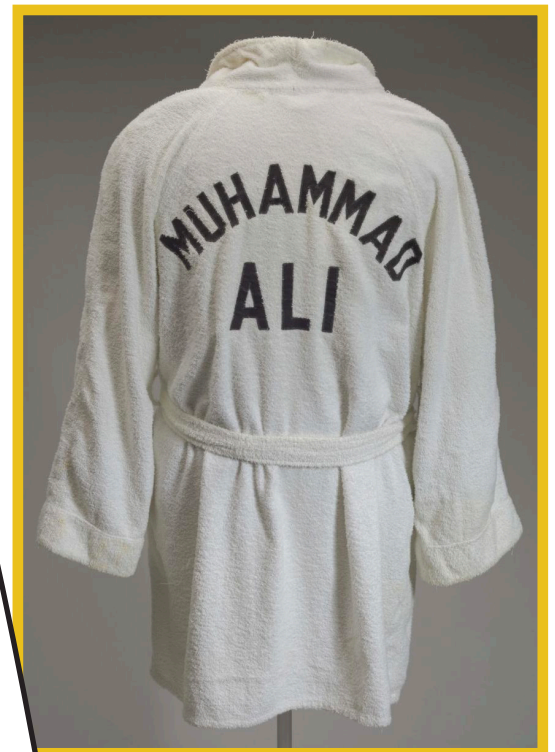
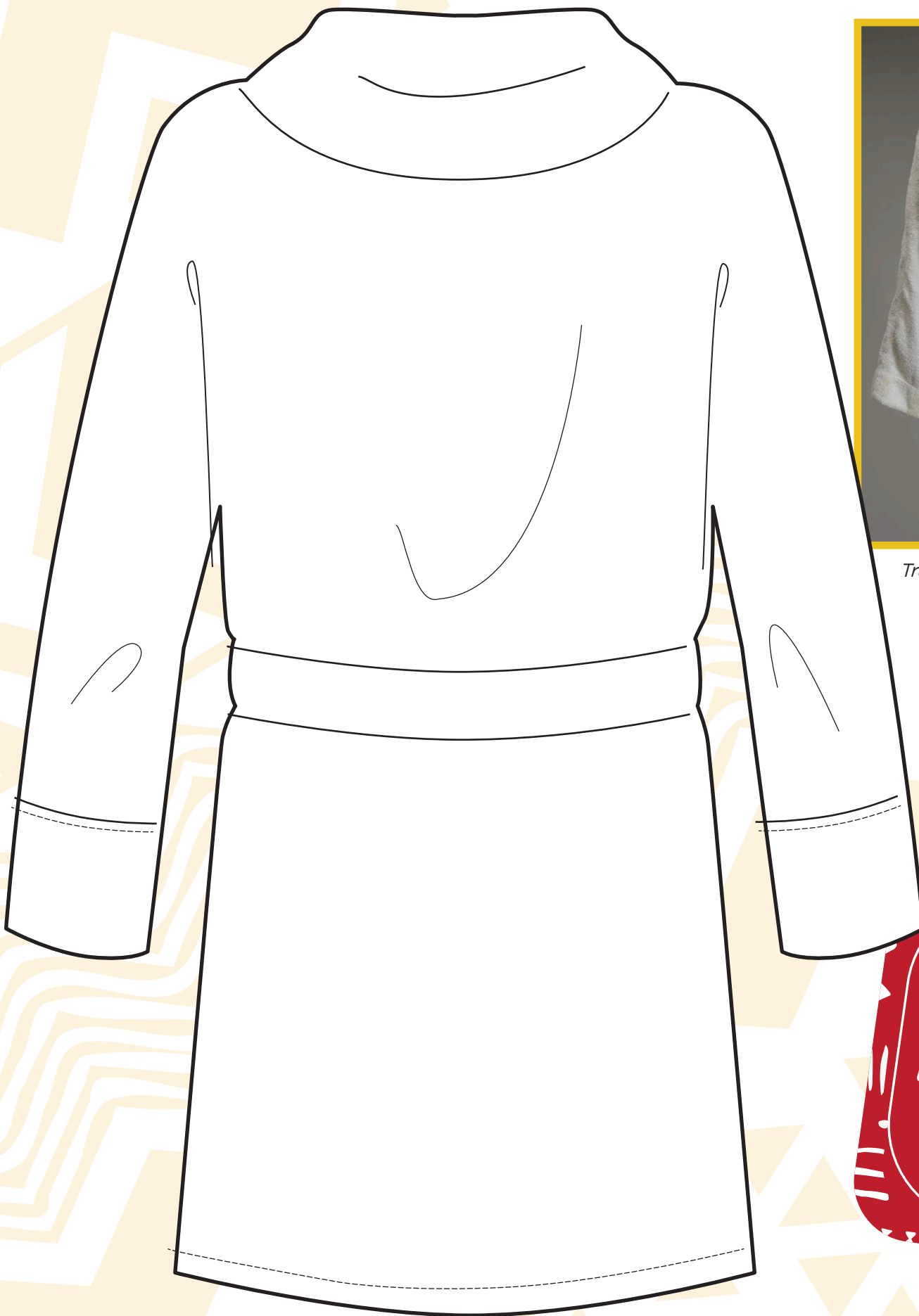






(DIS)ROBE AND DISPEL

DIRECTIONS: Below is an image of a robe that Muhammad Ali wore during his training. This terry cloth robe, with Muhammad Ali's name on the back in large black letters, says something that the world knew: He was simply Muhammad Ali, "The Greatest." Based on what you know about Muhammad Ali, using the things he stood for and his accomplishments, design a robe that would honor Muhammad Ali.



Training robe worn by Muhammad Ali at the 5th Street Gym, 1964



MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER

DIRECTIONS: Solve the following math problems based on the table.

This table shows the number of people visiting The Muhammad Ali Center over 3 months:

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CHILD	28	34	56
ADULT	59	?	55
SENIOR	15	22	?
TOTAL	?	139	?

1. What is the total number of people that visited The Muhammad Ali Center in January?

2. Compared to January, how many more children go to The Muhammad Ali Center in February?

3. How many adults visited The Muhammad Ali Center in February?

4. 16 more seniors visited in March than the number that visited in January and February combined. How many seniors visited The Muhammad Ali Center in March?



5. Which month had the highest number of visitors?

6. Write an equation using “x” and then solve the equation. “In February, there were x The Muhammad Ali Center pass holders admitted to the The Muhammad Ali Center. 68 of the visitors did not have a Muhammad Ali Center pass.”

ANSWERS: (1.) 28 + 59 + 15 = 102. (2.) 34 - 28 = 6 (3.) 139 - 34 - 22 = 83 (4.) 15 + 22 + 16 = 53 (5.) The total admission of March = 56 + 55 + 53 = 164 March has the highest number of admission among the three months. (6.) 68 + x = 139 x = 71

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.