

A close-up photograph of a young boy with brown hair, wearing a blue cat mask and a blue cape. The mask has large eye cutouts and cat ears on top. The boy is looking slightly to his right. The background is blurred.

SUPERKIDS

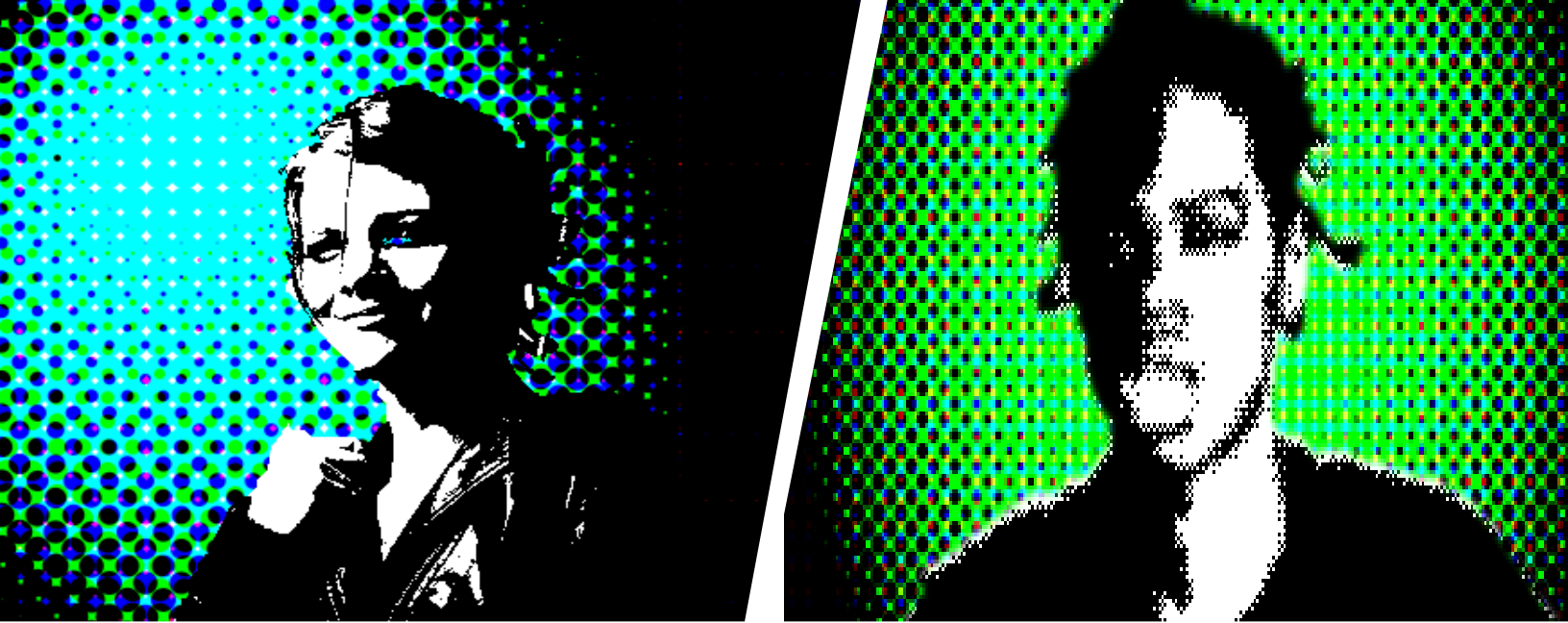
Reading PI: Nonfiction Comprehension Program
Grade 3

REAL KIDS CAN DO
REALLY AMAZING
THINGS!



SUPERKIDS

Reading PI: Nonfiction Comprehension Program
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Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

Content Developed by:

Douglas Fuchs (Principal Investigator)

Meagan E. Walsh

Samuel A. Patton

Pamela Lehman

Special thanks to the research assistants who piloted and provided feedback on these materials:
Sarah Raider, Michelle Nagy, Harrison Baker, Hope Wiggs, Lauren Marlar, and Sydney Padula.

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SUPER GIRL: JESSICA WATSON

Imagine being alone on a boat. Now imagine you're sailing in the middle of the ocean. Jessica Watson did that for 6 months! She was only 16! She became the youngest person to sail around the world. That makes her a "Super Girl"!

Preparing for her Trip

Jessica got the idea to sail around the world when she was 11. Her whole family loved sailing. They lived on a boat for five years. Then she heard about an 18-year-old sailor who went around the world by himself. His story **inspired** her. She wanted to do that too!

Jessica prepared for her trip for 4 years. She had to work hard to get ready for her trip around the world. She knew she needed to practice sailing by herself. She needed to learn to handle difficult problems on her own. She spent years practicing. It was hard work. One time, she crashed her boat during practice. That didn't stop her. She kept practicing.

...And She's Off!

Finally, she was ready! She started her trip. She was 16 years old. It was not easy. Once, she sailed into a bad storm. There were big waves and strong winds. But she kept sailing. She sailed by herself for six months.

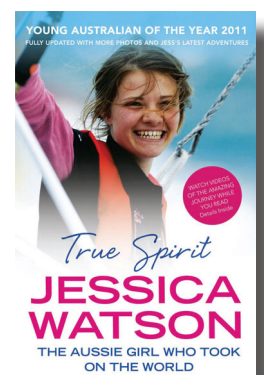
In the end, Jessica **accomplished** her goal! She is now the youngest person to sail around the world **solo**. Later, she wrote a book about her trip. Maybe her book will **inspire** others to have their own adventures!

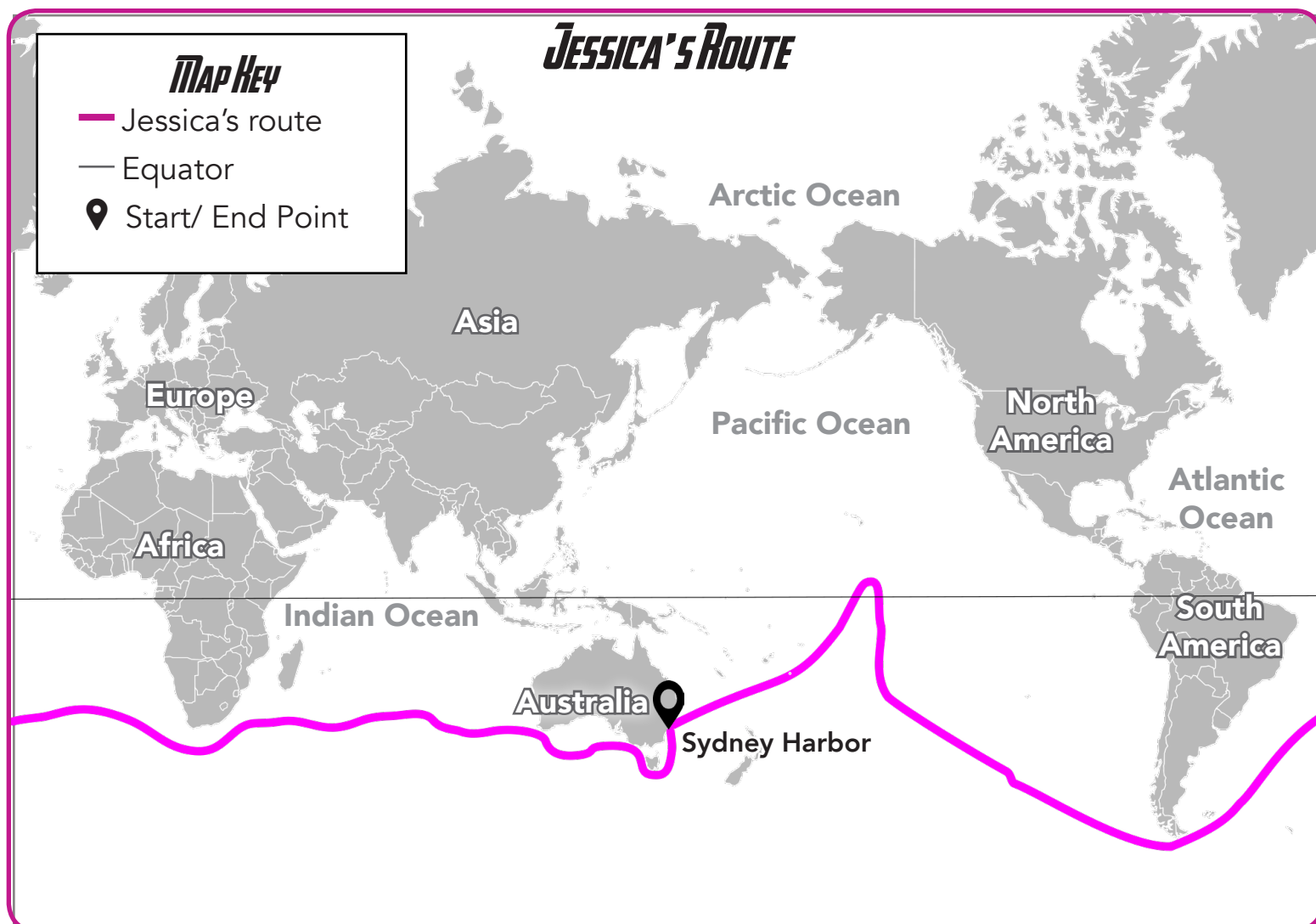


Jessica at sea.

YOU ARE ONLY
AS BIG AS THE
DREAMS YOU DARE
TO LIVE.

To learn more
about Jessica, you
can read the book
she wrote, True
Spirit!





Jessica at the end of her trip aboard her boat, Ella's Pink Lady.



BAT BOY: BEN UNDERWOOD

Riding a bike is easy for most of us. Bike riding is much easier than sailing a boat by yourself around the world. Right? But what if you couldn't see? How easy would it be to ride a bike if you were **blind**? Ben Underwood was blind. That didn't stop him. He learned to do some amazing things.

Something's Wrong

Ben Underwood was a healthy baby. He was never sick. He played with his brothers and sisters. He was curious and happy. Then one day, Ben's mom noticed something strange. One of Ben's eyes looked like it was glowing. After a few days, his eye turned white. Ben's mom realized that her son was losing his sight! She was scared. She took him to a doctor to find out what was wrong.

The doctor did some tests. The tests showed that Ben had cancer in both of his eyes. The doctor tried many things to save Ben's eyes. But, nothing worked. The doctor decided that Ben needed to have surgery to remove his eyes. It was the only way to save his life. He was just 3 years old!



Ben can ride a bike even though he is blind!



Ben's eyes were removed as a little boy. People who meet him might be surprised to learn his eyeballs are fake like the ones in this picture.

**BEN, YES YOU
CAN SEE!**

--Ben's mom

LEARNING TO SEE IN THE DARK

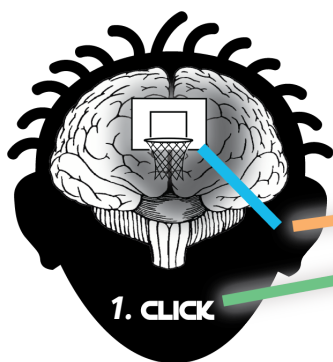
Ben woke up from the surgery and said, "Mom I can't see." It was true. Ben's eyes were gone. He was completely blind. How would Ben have a normal life now? But, Ben's mom didn't give up. She wanted her son to do everything that someone with regular sight could do. Ben's mom said, "Ben, yes you can see!" She helped Ben learn how to "see" using his hands, ears, and nose.

Almost right away, Ben began to make a clicking noise. The clicking noise he made bounced off of different things in the room. When the sound bounced back to Ben's ears, he was able to use that sound to figure out what was around him in the room. Ben was using **echolocation**. Dolphins and bats use this to see in the dark. Ben realized he could use it, too.

Using echolocation, Ben learned to do many things that others thought would be impossible for him. He learned to ride a bike. He learned to roller blade. He learned to play basketball. There was nothing Ben couldn't do. He could walk and run to places on his own. Being blind didn't stop Ben. In some ways, Ben had a special gift. He once said that the problem with sighted people is that, "you all look at each other and judge what you look like." Ben didn't do that. He saw people as they truly were! Ben was a real-life superhero!

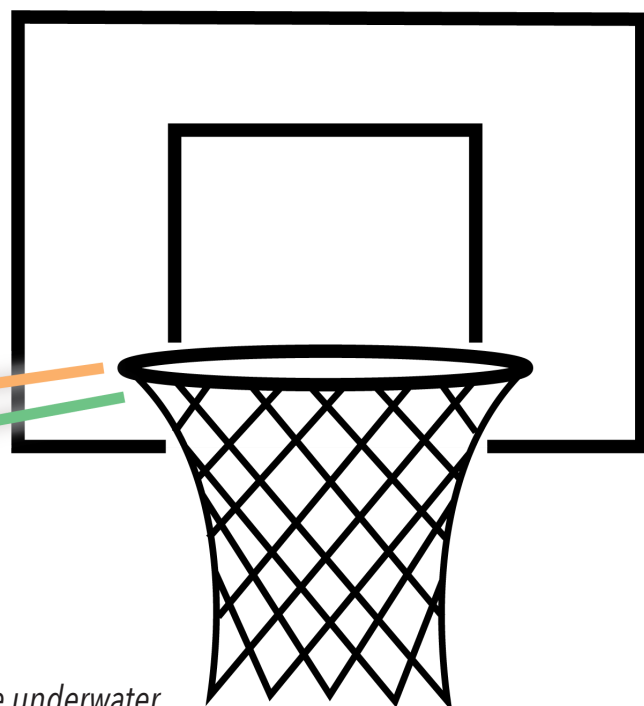
How ECHOLOCATION WORKS

4. The brain turns the sound messages into a picture.



3. Sound bounces off an object.

2. Sound travels to an object.



Dolphins use echolocation to see underwater and bats use echolocation to see in the dark. Ben used echolocation to see without eyes.