

THE
AMAZING
DYLAN
ALCOTT

Find out
how he got
SO GOOD!

Chris Maher

Illustrated by
Jules Faber

AMAZING SERIES
TEACHER RESOURCE



Publication Details

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Recommended for Ages: 8-12

Themes

- Disability
- Family
- Sports/Sportsmanship
- Paralympian
- Australian of the Year

Key Curriculum Areas

Learning Area: English General Capabilities, Humanities, Social Sciences, the Arts

General Capabilities: Literacy, critical and creative thinking; personal and social capability; visual literacy

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To learn about the achievements of young sporting Australians.
- To use the text as a springboard for general discussion about sport, equality, diversity, and innovation.
- To empower young readers.



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Plot Summary

Imagine what it would be like to win a Golden Slam and Olympic gold, like the amazing Dylan Alcott! How would it feel to be a Paralympian and named Australian of the Year?

Find out what it takes to get so good - the training, the big breaks and the challenges along the way. Get inspired to find your own passion and BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

About the Author

Chris Maher

Chris is a writer, journalist, and editor. He writes across a variety of fields, has had five children's books published and is working on a young adult science fiction trilogy.

About the Illustrator

Jules Faber

Jules has illustrated over thirty books, most of them for children, including the best-selling Weirdo series with Ahn Do and The Kaboom Kid series with David Warner. He has worked with all seven of the major publishers in Australia, which has been fun every single time.

About the Book

Every Amazing Sporting Hero has a story. Featuring easy-read text and fun illustrations, this series is suitable for readers who are happier out of the classroom than in it! Collect the whole series: *Amazing Ash Barty*, *Amazing Sam Kerr*, *Amazing Pat Cummins*.

This collection of books shows support for the incredible young sports people who are the future of our country.



Pre-reading Questions

1. Looking at the cover, title and blurb, who do you think this book is about?
2. What details on the cover support that prediction?
3. Dylan Alcott was named Australian of the Year in 2022. What is the significance of this award?
4. Dylan Alcott is an athlete, Paralympian, philanthropist, media commentator and advocate. Read about the Paralympics and when it first started.

Writing Style

1. The author is speaking directly at you, the reader, throughout the book. What is that called?
2. Why do you think that the author has brought you, the reader, into the story?
3. Imagine YOU are the 2022 Victorian Australian of the year nominee... And, unlike all the other nominees, you are in a wheelchair. What steps does the author take to make you feel that it's you in that chair?

Illustrations

There are illustrations throughout the book. They are not just there to make the book more appealing. Tell us some things that you learnt by looking at the illustrations.

How did the illustrations add to the story?

Why does the illustrator use speech bubbles throughout the book? What purpose do you think it adds?

Themes

Disability

“No one in a wheelchair has ever been celebrated as someone to look up to”. Why do you think this was the way?

Family

How much influence did Dylan's family have in his sport?

Friendship

What two things happened that were a turning point in Dylan's life?

Sportsmanship

At the back of the book there is a glossary of sportspeople that were mentioned in the book who have shown sportsmanship. Look through this list and highlight those who you had not heard about before.



Paralympian

Dylan had done it. Paralympic gold in two sports! What sports were they?

Australian of the Year

When he was made Australian of the Year, he said that winning grand slams and gold medals wasn't his number one purpose – it was way down his list of priorities. What was Dylan's priority?

After Reading

- How did you, the reader – just a kid in a wheelchair – become so respected that you were chosen to be Australian of the Year?
- What do you think the author hoped you would think after reading the text?
- Where do you think that Dylan started being the VERY BEST THAT YOU CAN BE?
- What do you think about Dylan Alcott's story?

Activities

1. Choose a sportsperson with a disability who is not featured in the book and, following the style of the book, write a short biography of their life and achievements. The person can be someone famous or notable, or it can be someone you know and admire.
2. Tennis Australia's national high-performance wheelchair coach, Francois Vogelsberger, says Dylan has A GROWTH MINDSET! What do you think that means?
3. As Australian of the Year, Dylan has some things to prove. After reading this book, you know what they are. What is one of his goals?
4. The author uses a lot of words that you may not have come across before. Can you find the meaning of the words on the next page and use them in a sentence?



WORD

MEANING

SENTENCE

Accomplishment

Disability

Expert

Motivation

Charisma

Exceptional

Stamina

