

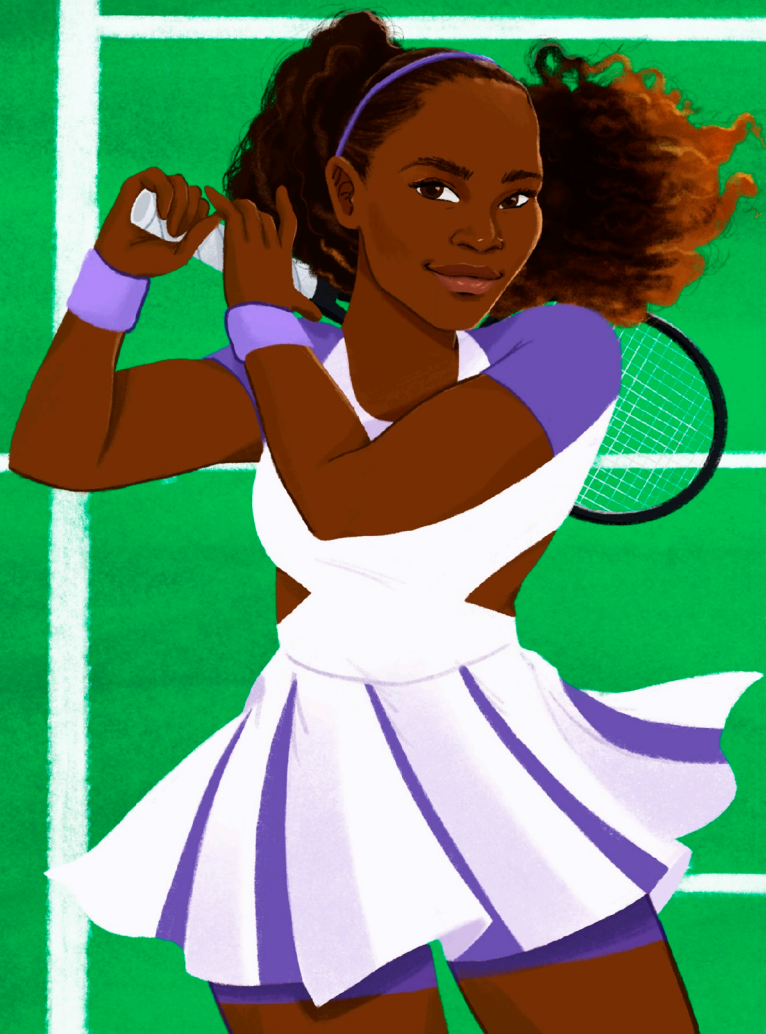
Penguin



Readers

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF

# SERENA WILLIAMS



## Contents

People in the book	4
New words	5
Note about the book	6
Before-reading questions	6
Chapter One – Who is Serena Williams?	7
Chapter Two – Serena the child	10
Chapter Three – Serena the tennis player	21
Chapter Four – Things get difficult	32
Chapter Five – Winning again	42
Chapter Six – Serena the woman	50
During-reading questions	56
After-reading questions	57
Exercises	58
Project work	62
Glossary	63

CHAPTER ONE  
Who is Serena Williams?

Serena Williams is a very **successful** tennis player. Many people say, “Serena Williams is the number-one **female** tennis player of all **time**.”



But learning tennis was not easy for Serena. Her family did not have money for tennis lessons.



**The Williams sisters**

Serena had to play on old tennis courts, and her rackets and balls were very old.

Some people did not like Serena, because she was black. They said, “Black people do not play tennis!” But this **racism** did not stop Serena.



## CHAPTER TWO

### Serena the child

Serena was **born** on 26th September 1981 in Michigan, USA. Her father, Richard, and her mother, Oracene, had four more daughters – Yetunde, Lyndrea, Isha and Venus. Serena was the little sister. Serena loved her big sisters, and she was very close to Venus.



One day, Richard Williams watched tennis on television. He learned about tennis from books, and he and Oracene started teaching it to their daughters.



For Review Only

The Williams family **moved** to Compton, California, and lived in a small house. The five sisters had one bedroom with four beds.

