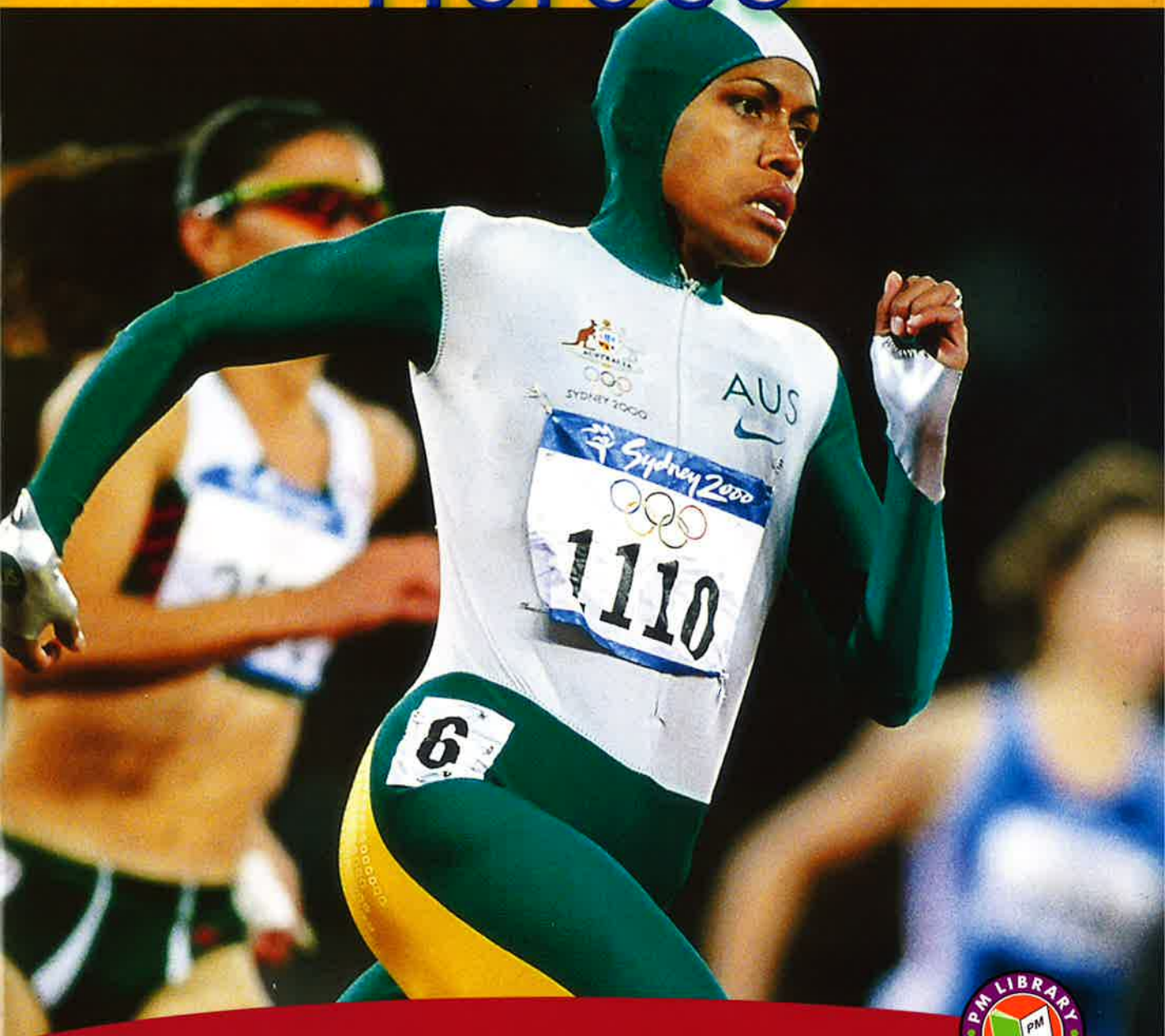
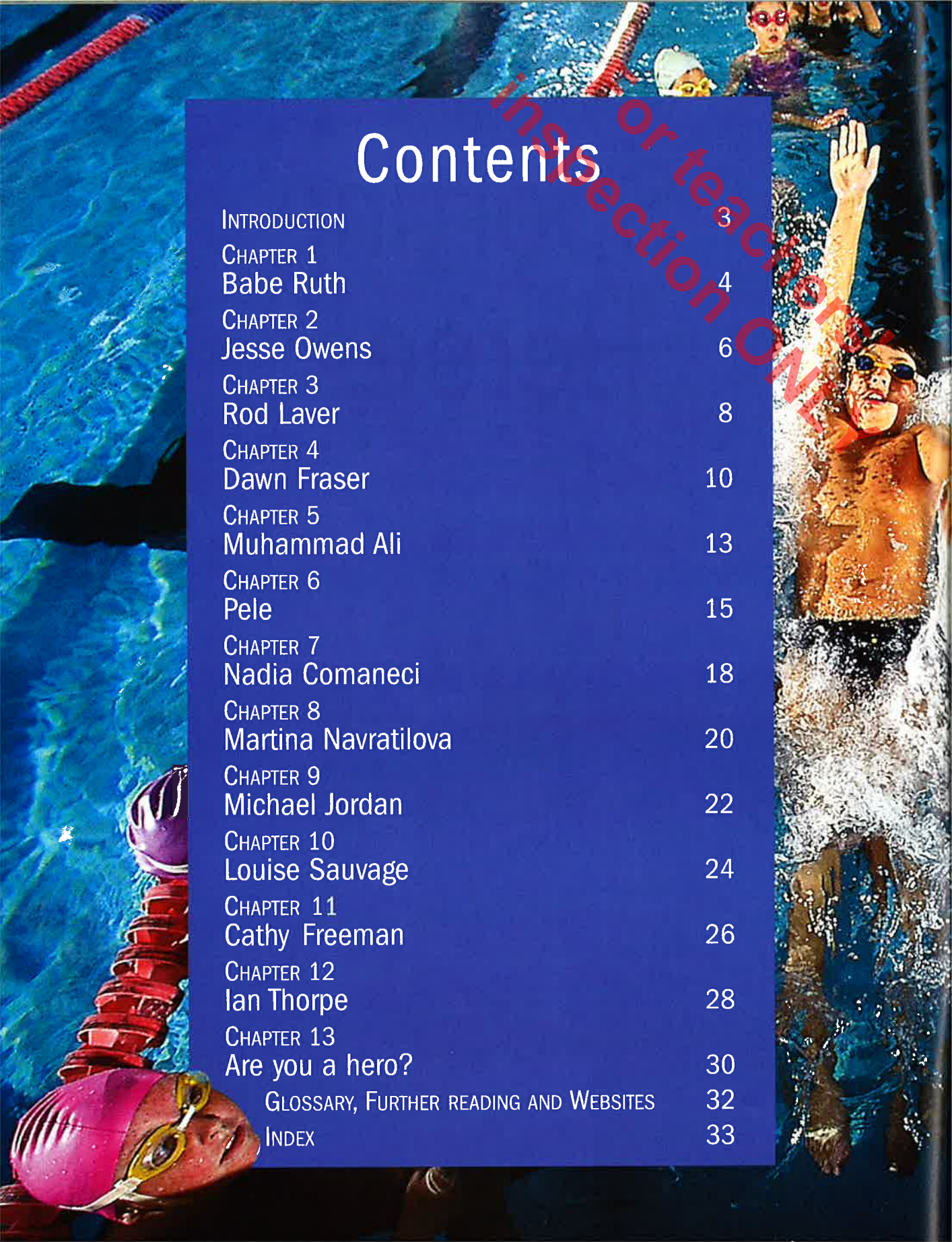
Sporting Heroes



Peter Weiniger

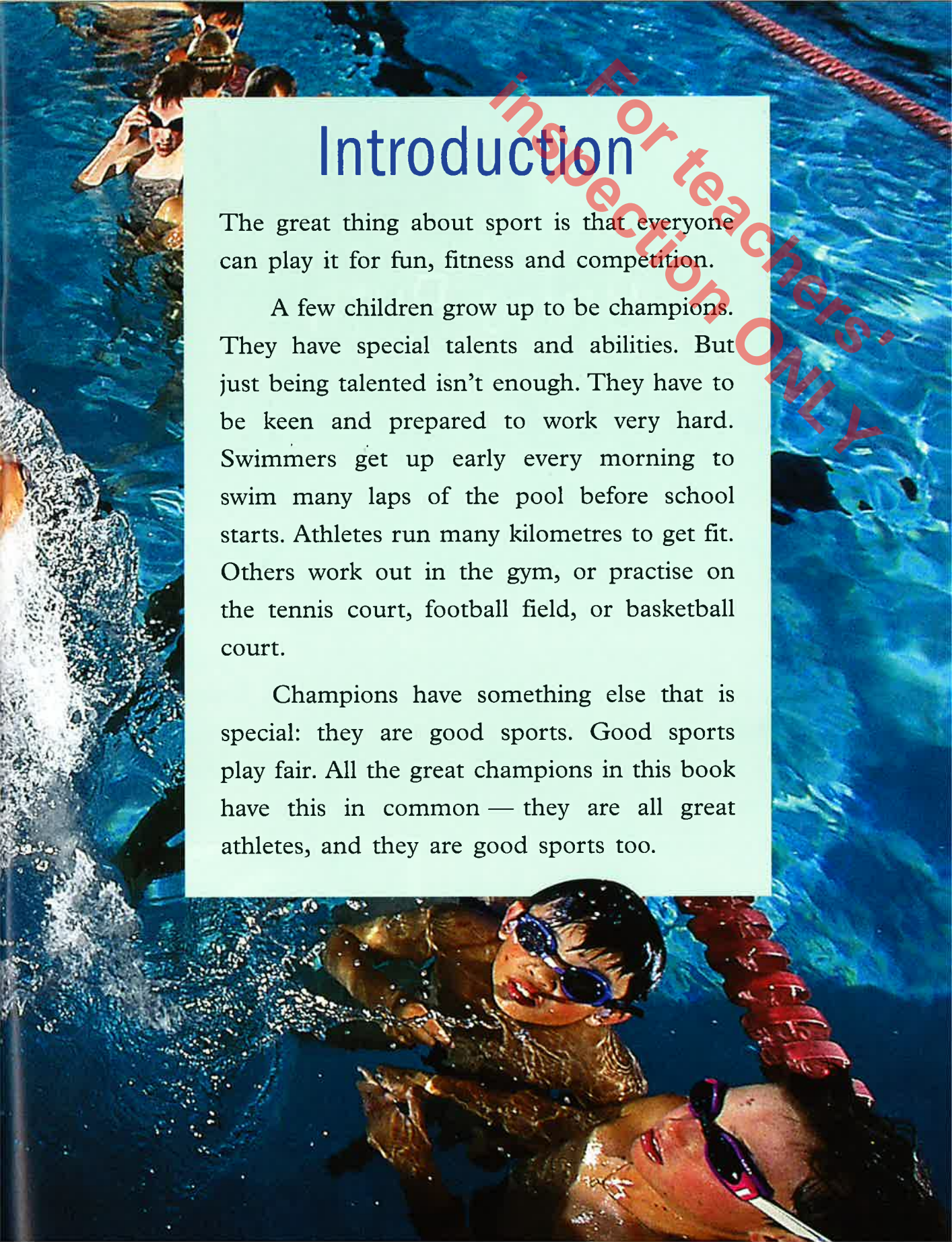
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Introduction

The great thing about sport is that everyone can play it for fun, fitness and competition.

A few children grow up to be champions. They have special talents and abilities. But just being talented isn't enough. They have to be keen and prepared to work very hard. Swimmers get up early every morning to swim many laps of the pool before school starts. Athletes run many kilometres to get fit. Others work out in the gym, or practise on the tennis court, football field, or basketball court.

Champions have something else that is special: they are good sports. Good sports play fair. All the great champions in this book have this in common — they are all great athletes, and they are good sports too.

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Chapter 1

Babe Ruth

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Babe Ruth is the most famous baseball player in the history of the game. His full name was George Herman Ruth, but everyone called him 'Babe'.

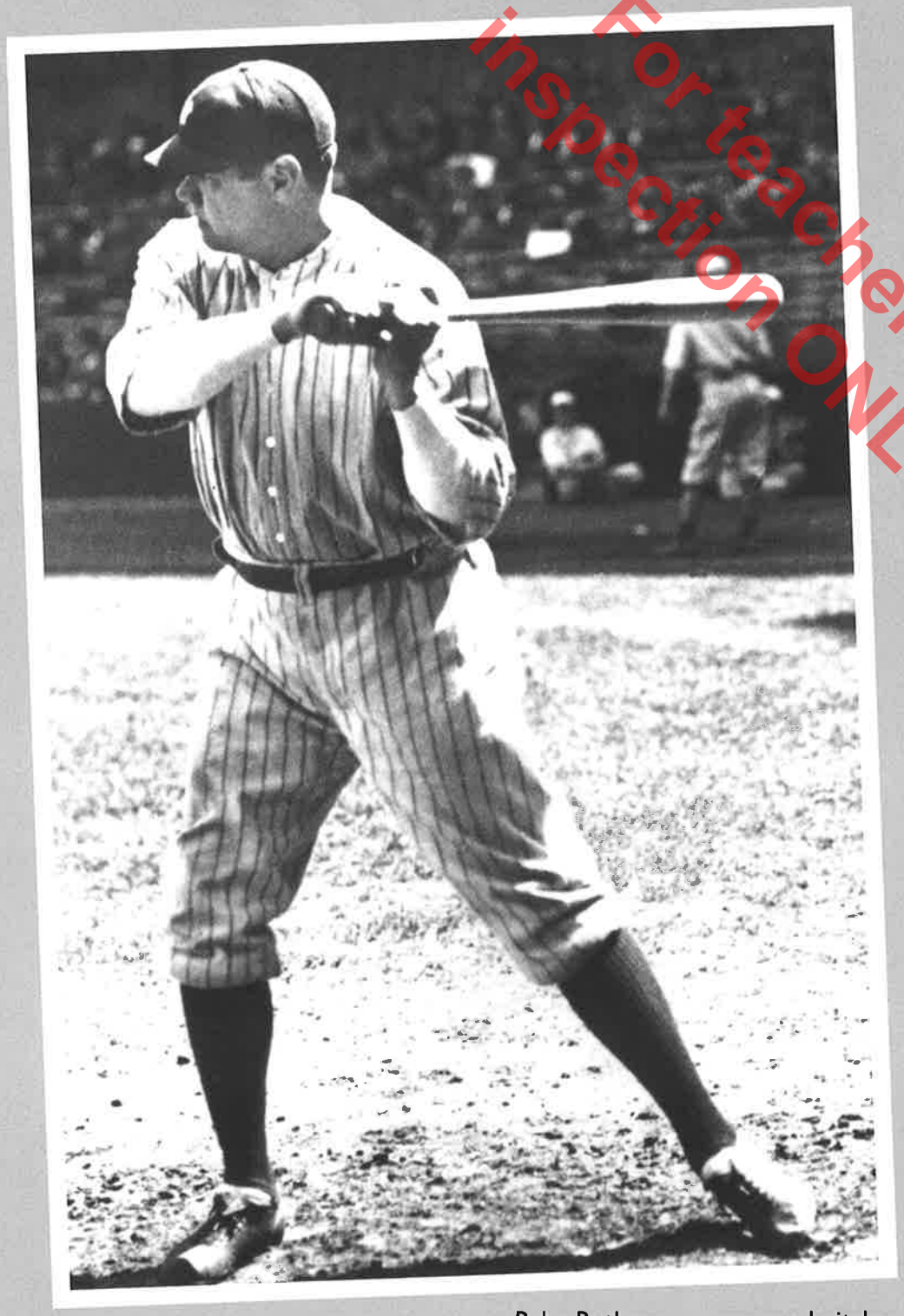
Babe Ruth was born to a poor family in the American city of Baltimore in 1895. He became a professional baseballer in 1914. His first team was the Boston Red Sox. He won two World Series with Boston and then he joined the New York Yankees. He retired in 1935. In his last game he hit three home runs, and he hit the third one so hard that it flew over the roof of the stadium. No one had ever done that before. Baseball fans loved Babe Ruth and he loved entertaining them.



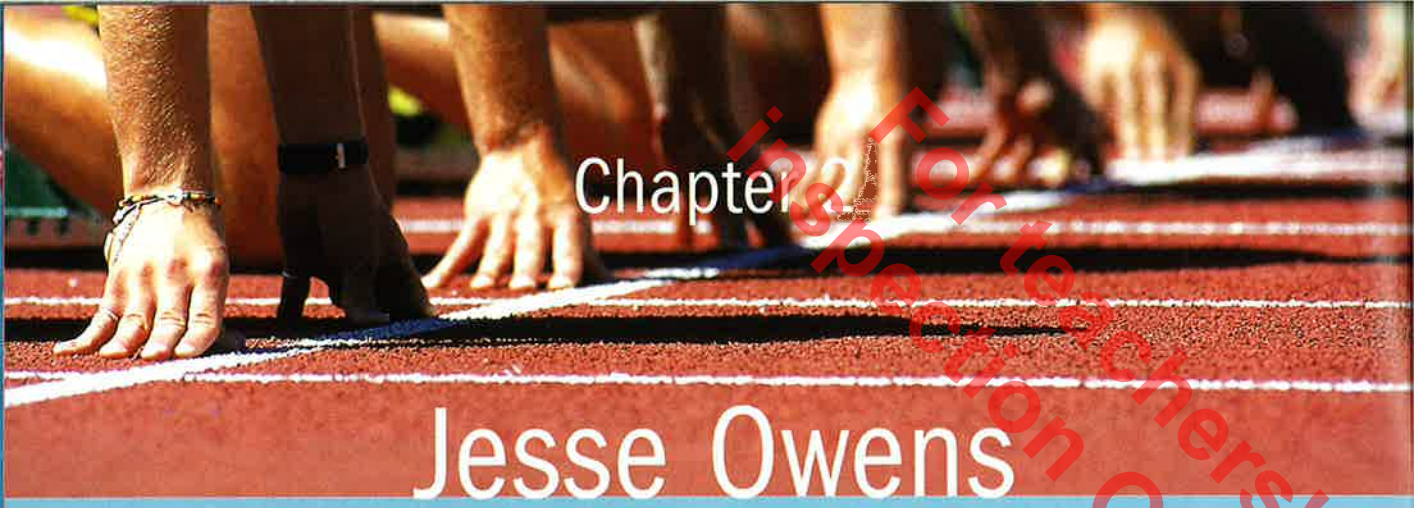
In his long career, he broke almost every batting record. In one season he hit 60 home runs — a record that stood for more than 30 years.

Babe Ruth died in 1948, aged 53.

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Babe Ruth was a very good pitcher and batter. He won the award for hitting the most home runs in a season twelve times.



Chapter 2

Jesse Owens

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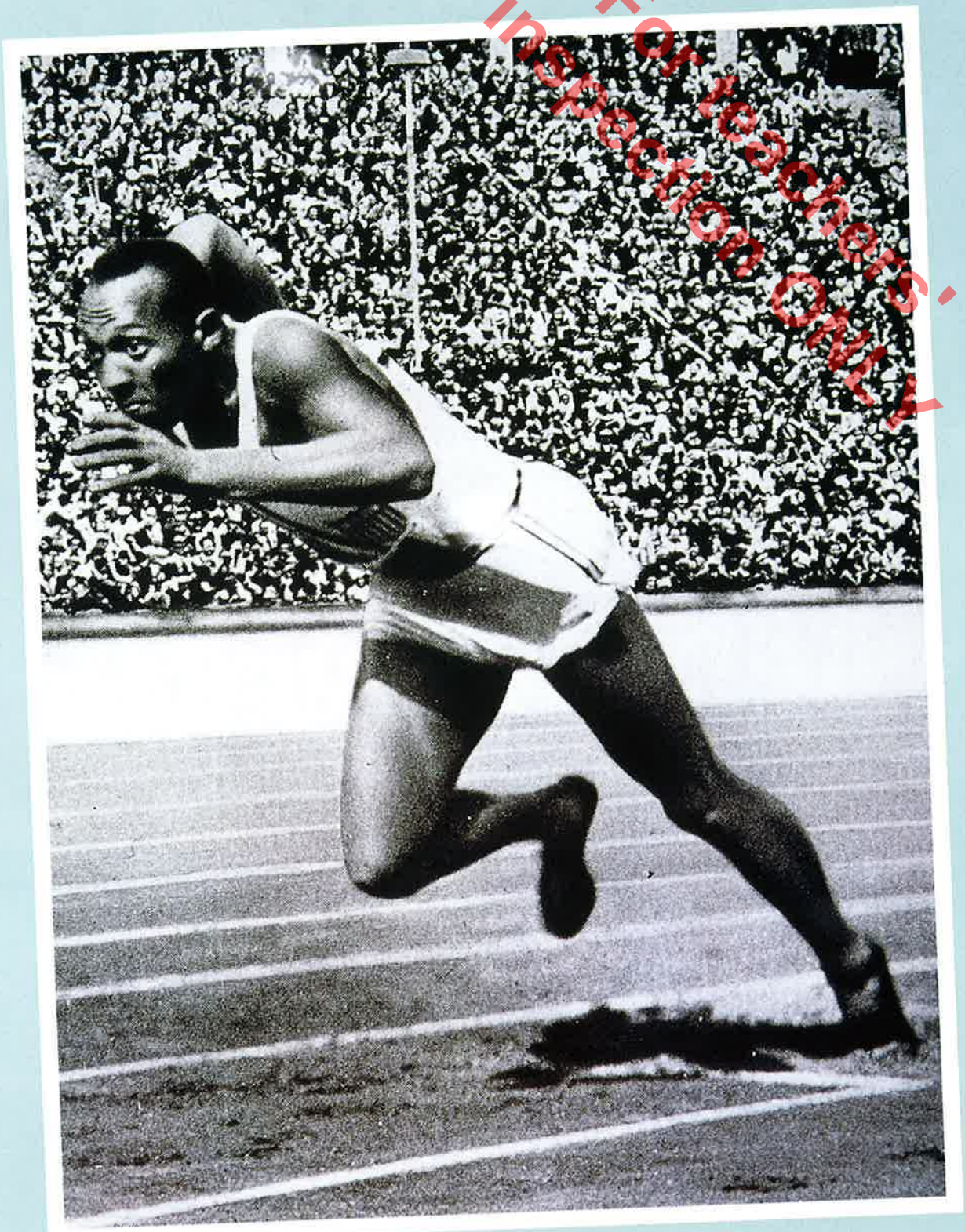
The American athlete, Jesse Owens, was the son of poor farmers. He first showed that he could run fast while he was in high school.

In 1935, when he was 22 years old, Jesse Owens broke five world records on the same afternoon. These were in the long jump, the 220 yards sprint, the 220 yards hurdles, the 200 metres sprint and the 200 metres hurdles. He also equalled the world record for the 100 yards sprint. No one has ever done this again in such a short time.

But his greatest moment came at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. Jesse won four gold medals, and he became the most popular athlete at the Games. Everywhere he went people cheered and wanted his autograph.

After his career was over, Jesse Owens joined a carnival and raced against horses, dogs and motorcycles. He died in 1980 but he is still remembered as one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century.

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Jesse Owens in action at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany.