

Beating Diabetes

by Bill O'Brien

Summary

Until the discovery of insulin in 1922, many people died from diabetes. Since then, scientists' knowledge and developments in technology have greatly improved the ways in which the disease is treated and millions of lives have been saved.

Features of the Text

- Captioned photographs and illustrations
- Fact boxes
- Specialized vocabulary – *insulin, syringe, vaccine, blood glucose level*
- Procedure
- Timeline
- Labeled diagrams

Purpose

Beating Diabetes can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- S** reading to find specific information;
- S** reading and interpreting fact boxes and timelines;
- S** gathering information from written and visual text;
- S** locating the main ideas.

The Guided Reading Lesson

- S** Reading to find specific information
- S** Reading and interpreting fact boxes and timelines

Introducing the text

Discuss the students' knowledge of diabetes.

- *What do you know about diabetes?*
- *What causes diabetes?*
- *How would a person know if they had diabetes?*
- *How is diabetes treated?*

Record the students' ideas on a chart and list their questions about the disease.

Ask the students to read the introduction on page 2.

Reading and discussing the text

Write the following questions on the board and ask the students to think about them as they read to the end of page 5.

1. Why do our bodies need insulin?
2. What are the two types of diabetes?
3. What are the symptoms of diabetes?
4. What are some of the ways to control diabetes?

Remind the students to refer to the glossary if they need to clarify the meaning of any of the words in bold type. When they've finished reading, discuss the answers to the questions on the board. Refer to the chart that was made earlier and record answers that have been found to the students' questions.

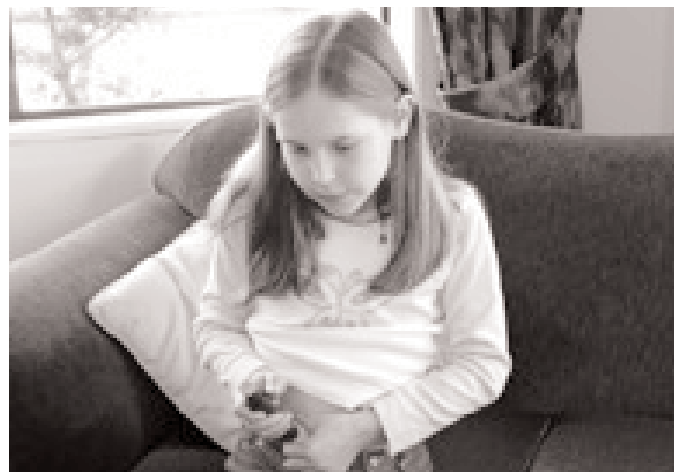
Explain to the students that people have known about diabetes for thousands of years. They can then read pages 6 to 9. Discuss the ways the ancient Egyptians treated diabetes and the breakthrough made by Frederick Banting and Charles Best.

Ask the students to look at the timeline on page 15.

- *What happened in 276 B.C.?*
- *When did the scientist discover that people with diabetes have too much glucose in their blood?*
- *What happened to Leonard Thompson in 1922?*
- *What new technology was introduced in 1984 and 1988?*

The students can now read the rest of the text to learn about this technology. When they have finished reading, encourage them to discuss the things a diabetic person would need to monitor.

- *What are scientists hoping to develop in the future?*



Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 39 to identify the different ways diabetes problems have been solved
- design a flow chart that will help someone to recognize the symptoms of diabetes
- design a bag to hold the things that a person with diabetes needs to carry with them, such as a meter, pen, pump, chart, pencil, and glucose candy.