

Name:

## Day One

# Sickle Cell Anemia: Beating the Odds

### Part 1: Silent read

→ T-Boz kept a secret from the world. Read silently.

“I’ve dealt with being in and out of the hospital my whole life,” Tionne Watkins told *CNN*. Tionne is better known as T-Boz. She was one of three singers in the girl group TLC. In the 1990s, the group had number one hits like “No Scrubs” and “Creep.” But while TLC topped the charts, Tionne was keeping a secret. She had a disease called sickle cell anemia.

People of all races and backgrounds can develop sickle cell anemia. But sickle cell impacts about one in 500 African Americans, with Latinos also at higher risk. People with the disease have red blood cells that are curved instead of round. These cells can clog blood vessels. This causes problems and pain all over the body. “I was told I wouldn’t live past 30,” Tionne told *CNN*. “I was told I would never have kids.”

Tionne beat these negative predictions. She stayed strong, and in 2000, she had a healthy daughter. She keeps a positive attitude. “My mental state is strong,” she told *People* magazine.

Tionne believes that nothing in her life is random. “I think everything happens for a reason,” she told *CNN*. After she went public with her disease, she began to speak out. She began sharing her story and acting as a mentor for other victims of sickle cell.

Tionne is looking toward the years ahead. “With age comes wisdom, and I’m looking forward to becoming wiser,” she told *CNN*. “I want to grow old and live to see my grandchildren.”

Source: “Human factor: TLC’s T-Boz on sickle cell anemia, brain tumor,” *CNN*, October 4, 2011.



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## Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What secret was Tionne keeping from the world?

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What is Tionne known for?

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### Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

“I’ve dealt with being in and out of the hospital / my whole life,” / Tionne Watkins told *CNN*. // Tionne is better known as T-Boz. // She was one of three singers / in the girl group TLC. // In the 1990s, / the group had number one hits / like “No Scrubs” / and “Creep.” // But while TLC topped the charts, / Tionne was keeping a secret. // She had a disease called sickle cell anemia. //

People of all races and backgrounds / can develop sickle cell anemia. // But sickle cell impacts / about one in 500 African Americans, / with Latinos also at higher risk. // People with the disease / have red blood cells that are curved / instead of round. // These cells can clog blood vessels. // This causes problems and pain / all over the body. // “I was told I wouldn’t live past 30,” / Tionne told *CNN*. // “I was told I would never have kids.” //

Tionne beat these negative predictions. // She stayed strong, / and in 2000, / she had a healthy daughter. // She keeps a positive attitude. // “My mental state is strong,” / she told *People* magazine. //

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Tionne is looking toward the years ahead. // “With age comes wisdom, / and I’m looking forward to becoming wiser,” / she told *CNN*. // “I want to grow old / and live to see my grandchildren.” //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.