

Name:

Day One

Twice As Good

Part 1: Silent read

→ Twins Shaquem and Shaquill overcame obstacles to make it to the NFL. Read silently.

Shaquem and Shaquill Griffin were twins born just minutes apart. The boys were identical, except Shaquem had a birth defect. His left hand did not grow normally. At age 4, his hand was amputated.

Both brothers loved sports. At home, they worked on getting strong. Their dad made Shaquem a wooden brace for his arm. Now the brothers could bench press together. In high school, they starred at baseball, track, and football. Shaquem played linebacker and Shaquill played corner. On the field together, they were unstoppable. Their high school team went to the state finals.

But with just one hand, colleges questioned Shaquem's skills. Twin brother Shaquill got lots of scholarship offers. However he turned down an offer from his dream school, U. of Miami. Instead, he chose to play with Shaquem at Central Florida.

Shaquem sat on the bench his first years at Central Florida. Then a new coach noticed his skills and started playing him. Shaquem told Knight News, "I've stopped calling things hard. It's just a challenge, another wall you got to jump. You might need a ladder to get over it. Find a ladder and just use it."

After that, Shaquem led Central Florida to an unbeaten season. In a fairytale ending, both twins were drafted by the NFL Seahawks. Shaquem was the first one-handed player to sign with the NFL. He was also given the NCAA's Inspiration Award. The prize goes to a player who gives hope to other athletes.



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Shaquem a wooden brace for his arm. Now the brothers could bench press together. In high	64
school, they starred at baseball, track, and football. Shaquem played linebacker and Shaquill	77
played corner. On the field together, they were unstoppable. Their high school team went to	92
the state finals.	95

But with just one hand, colleges questioned Shaquem’s skills. Twin brother Shaquill got lots	109
of scholarship offers. However he turned down an offer from his dream school, U. of Miami.	125
Instead, he chose to play with Shaquem at Central Florida.	135

Shaquem sat on the bench his first years at Central Florida. Then a new coach noticed his	152
skills and started playing him. Shaquem told Knight News, “I’ve stopped calling things hard.	166
It’s just a challenge, another wall you got to jump. You might need a ladder to get over it.	185
Find a ladder and just use it.”	192

After that, Shaquem led Central Florida to an unbeaten season. In a fairytale ending, both	207
twins were drafted by the NFL Seahawks. Shaquem was the first one-handed player to	221
sign with the NFL. He was also given the NCAA’s Inspiration Award. The prize goes to	237
a player who gives hope to other athletes.	245

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What made Shaquem an unusual NFL player?

What was the happy ending for the Griffin twins?

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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.

Shaquem and Shaquill Griffin / were twins born just minutes apart. // The boys were identical, / except Shaquem had a birth defect. // His left hand did not grow normally. / At age 4, / his hand was amputated. //

Both brothers loved sports. // At home, / they worked on getting strong. // Their dad made Shaquem a wooden brace for his arm. // Now the brothers could bench press together. // In high school, / they starred at baseball, / track, / and football. // Shaquem played linebacker / and Shaquill played corner. // On the field together, / they were unstoppable. // Their high school team went to the state finals. //

But with just one hand, / colleges questioned Shaquem’s skills. // Twin brother Shaquill got lots of scholarship offers. // However / he turned down an offer from his dream school, / U. of Miami. // Instead, / he chose to play with Shaquem / at Central Florida. //

Shaquem sat on the bench / his first years at Central Florida. // Then a new coach noticed his skills / and started playing him. // Shaquem told Knight News, / “I’ve stopped calling things hard. // It’s just a challenge, / another wall you got to jump. // You might need a ladder to get over it. // Find a ladder / and just use it.” //

After that, / Shaquem led Central Florida to an unbeaten season. // In a fairytale ending, / both twins were drafted by the NFL Seahawks. // Shaquem was the first one-handed player to sign with the NFL. // He was also given / the NCAA’s Inspiration Award. // The prize goes to a player / who gives hope to other athletes. //

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