

Name:

## Day Two

# Sickle Cell Anemia: Beating the Odds

## Part 1: Tricky phrases and words



→ Read these phrases and words **out loud** to your partner.

- People of all races and backgrounds
- with Latinos also at higher risk
- These cells can clog blood vessels
- After she went public with her disease
- and acting as a mentor
  
- Tionne                      **TEE** | on
- disease                      dih | **ZEEZ**
- anemia                      uh | **NEE** | mee | uh
- vessels                      **VESS** | ulz
- negative                      **NEG** | uh | tiv
- predictions                      pree | **DIK** | shunz



### Decoding practice:

We break words into syllables where we see two consonants in the middle of words.

- Underline the middle two consonants
- Draw a line between the two consonants
- Put a short vowel sign <sup>˘</sup> over the first vowel
- Say the word with your partner

The first one is done for you.

W<sup>˘</sup>atkins

problems

mental

random

public

mentor

victims

wisdom



## Day Two

// one minute

# Sickle Cell Anemia: Beating the Odds

Part 2: Last read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

“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.”

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Do you think it was okay for Tionne to keep her disease a secret, or did she have a responsibility to go public? Why?

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What does your partner think?

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