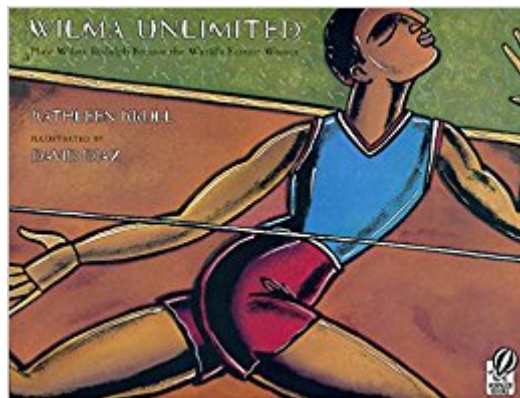




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# Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became The World's Fastest Woman



## Synopsis

Before Wilma Rudolph was five years old, polio had paralyzed her left leg. Everyone said she would never walk again. But Wilma refused to believe it. Not only would she walk again, she vowed, she'd run. And she did run--all the way to the Olympics, where she became the first American woman to earn three gold medals in a single olympiad. This dramatic and inspiring true story is illustrated in bold watercolor and acrylic paintings by Caldecott Medal-winning artist David Diaz.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850 (What's this?)

Paperback: 44 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (February 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152020985

ISBN-13: 978-0152020989

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 45 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,516 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Olympics](#) #4 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Track & Field](#) #10 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Sports & Recreation](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

"No one expected such a tiny girl to have a first birthday," begins this inspiring biographical sketch of a legendary track stars. Born in 1940 in Tennessee, the chronically sickly though "lively" Rudolph contracted polio just before her fifth birthday. Though not expected to walk again, the fiercely determined girl persevered with her leg exercises; by the time she was 12, she no longer needed her steel brace. Eight years later, Rudolph represented the U.S. in the 1960 Olympics in Rome, where, despite a twisted ankle, she became the first American woman to win three gold medals during a single Olympic competition. Krull's (Lives of the Musicians) characteristic, conversational style serves her especially well here. Through her words the nearly superhuman Rudolph seems both personable and recognizable. Rendered in acrylic, watercolor and gouache, Caldecott Medalist Diaz's (Smoky Night) imposing, richly hued illustrations have a distinctive, cubist feel. The artist's

bold design superimposes this art against sepia-toned photographs of relevant background images: playground sand, wooden fence slats, the gravel of a running track. This juxtaposition yields busy, effectively textured pages, flawed only by the text's curiously embellished font-the letters look as though they have been speckled with either ink blots or dust. A triumphant story, triumphantly relayed. Ages 7-12. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Kindergarten-Grade 5?The story of Wilma Rudolph, the prematurely born black child who, despite suffering from polio, became the first woman to win three Olympic gold medals. The narrative could very easily slip into sentimentality. It is to Krull's credit that though her telling is affecting, it is also crisp and matter of fact, very much in the spirit of Rudolph's deep day-to-day determination. However, the real impact of this book lies in the potent melding of powerful prose with Diaz's stunning artwork. His watercolor and acrylic illustrations with definite black outlining create a stained-glass effect, and the paintings themselves are backed on sepia photographs that relate to the text. For example, narrative about Wilma's bus trips to Nashville is matched with an illustration showing the girl and her mother at the back of the bus. This in turn is superimposed over a photograph of a bus tire. Children will listen raptly to this inspirational tale, which is especially appropriate for this Olympic year.?Ann Welton, Terminal Park Elementary School, Auburn, WA  
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As a runner and mother to twin girls I am always looking for books with strong female characters. Well this fit the bill perfectly! This is a great story of determination and perseverance and is great for any kid, BOY or GIRL, 4 and up! Not only do girls need to hear about females they can admire, but its just as important for our boys to hear about them as well!!! Boys that respect girls, grown up to be men that respect women!

## GRANDCHILD LIKE THE BOOK

A great, inspiring book that talks about overcoming adversity at a Kindergarten level.

I love this book!

My granddaughter (age 10) read this in one sitting and found it inspirational.

My daughter really enjoyed reading this book!

We use this book along with video clips at the beginning of each sixth grade year. Truly inspirational.

It covered all the bases perfectly for an African-American second grade girl: girl power, faith in God, and overcoming the roadblocks and limitations of segregation and racism.

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