

**The  
Marble  
Champ**

BUILD BACKGROUND  
Unit 1, Grade 5

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**California Standards**

Reading

– Vocabulary and Concept Development 1.3

- Understand and explain frequently used synonyms, antonyms, and homographs.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Word Knowledge**

LINE 1: commotion racket disturbance hubbub

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Word Knowledge**

LINE 1: commotion racket disturbance hubbub

LINE 2: whispers marbles muscles thumbs

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Word Knowledge**

LINE 1: commotion racket disturbance hubbub

LINE 2: whispers marbles muscles thumbs

LINE 3: knuckles knee knot know

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Word Knowledge**

LINE 1: commotion racket disturbance hubbub

LINE 2: whispers marbles muscles thumbs

LINE 3: knuckles knee knot know

LINE 4: treasure bedspread chess strengthen shelf

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Word Knowledge**

SENTENCE 1: The cheering fans created a racket and a hubbub.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Word Knowledge**

SENTENCE 1: The cheering fans created a racket and a hubbub.

SENTENCE 2: Playing marbles can strengthen muscles in the hands.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Word Knowledge**

SENTENCE 1: The cheering fans created a racket and a hubbub.

SENTENCE 2: Playing marbles can strengthen muscles in the hands.

SENTENCE 3: When I scraped my knees and knuckles, my mom made a fuss.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Word Knowledge**

SENTENCE 1: The cheering fans created a racket and a hubbub.

SENTENCE 2: Playing marbles can strengthen muscles in the hands.

SENTENCE 3: When I scraped my knees and knuckles, my mom made a fuss.

SENTENCE 4: Isabel will treasure the bedspread quilted for her by her grandmother.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Activate Prior Knowledge**

- Do you know how to play marbles?
- What are the rules?
- Have you ever played in a game?



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Activate Prior Knowledge**

- What was the role of the competition in "Class President"?
- What is positive about competition?



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Background Information**

- Marbles is played with small, hard, round objects.
- Marbles can be made out of stone, glass, steel, clay, or plastic.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Background Information**

- Players shoot a marble at other target marbles placed inside a circle that can be drawn on the ground.
- Opponents' marbles knocked out of the circle may be kept or scored as points.



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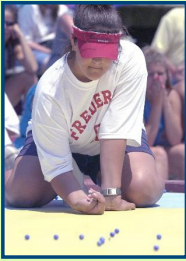
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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Background Information**

To "knuckle down"

- Marble shooters place the knuckle of their first finger on the ground.
- They put the marble in the joint of their finger and use their thumb to snap the marble at their opponents' marbles.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Background Information**

Shooters try for

- accuracy in their aim.
- distance in their shots.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Background Information**

- "The Marble Champ" is realistic fiction.
- What do you know about **realistic fiction**?



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Background Information**

Elements of Realistic Fiction:

- The characters behave as people or animals do in real life.
- The setting of the story is a real place.
- The events of the story are based on a conflict or problem that occur in real life.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Browse**

- Read aloud the title and the names of the author and illustrator.
- Quickly look over the first page or two of the selection.
- What do you think this story might have to do with *cooperation and competition*?



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Browse**

Look for Clues

- What unfamiliar words or long sentences did you notice while browsing?
- What clues did you find to help you understand the selection?



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Browse**

Focus Questions

- Read the Focus Questions before you read.
- Keep these questions in mind as you read.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Set Purposes**

As you read, think about how setting goals and the support of cooperation can lead to successful competition.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

- contest
- athletic
- match
- energy
- players
- commotion

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**contest**

- Lupe Medrano, a shy girl who spoke in whispers, was the school's spelling bee champion, winner of reading **contest** at the public library three summers in a row, blue ribbon awardee in science fair, the top student at her piano recital, and the playground grand champion in chess.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**contest**

- Lupe Medrano, a shy girl who spoke in whispers, was the school's spelling bee champion, winner of reading **contest** at the public library three summers in a row, blue ribbon awardee in science fair, the top student at her piano recital, and the playground grand champion in chess.
- When the two friends entered the writing **contest**, they felt bad about competing against each other.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**athletic**

- She ate her dinner with her left hand to spare her shooting hand and said nothing to her parents about her dreams of **athletic** glory.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**athletic**

- She ate her dinner with her left hand to spare her shooting hand and said nothing to her parents about her dreams of **athletic** glory.
- Lisa is very **athletic**. She skies, swims, and runs track.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**match**

- She signed up and was assigned her first **match** on baseball diamond three.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**match**

- She signed up and was assigned her first **match** on baseball diamond three.
- In tennis, a **match** between two good athletics may last for hours.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**energy**

- She missed her next shot, and Lupe, one eye closed, her thumb quivering with **energy**, blasted two marbles out of the circle but missed her next shot.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**energy**

- She missed her next shot, and Lupe, one eye closed, her thumb quivering with **energy**, blasted two marbles out of the circle but missed her next shot.
- It took all my **energy** to climb the big hill.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**players**

- Onlookers had gathered too tightly around the **players**.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**players**

- Onlookers had gathered too tightly around the **players**.
- The chess **players** were caught up in their game.



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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**commotion**

- Lupe shook hands with everyone, including a dog who had come over to see what the **commotion** was all about.

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**"The Marble Champ"**  
**Vocabulary**

**commotion**

- Lupe shook hands with everyone, including a dog who had come over to see what the **commotion** was all about.
- The crowd at the soccer game was so noisy that we could hear the **commotion** from my house.



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