Kevin Garnett

Pre-reading

Questions:
- What do you know about Kevin Garnett?
- What would you like to know about Kevin Garnett?

Definitions:
- 6’11” = 6 feet 11 inches
- NBA – abbreviation for National Basketball Association

Reading

Kevin Garnett, often known as K.G., is basketball. He lives and breathes the game.

Growing up, he shot baskets for hours every day. Friends remember him having a ball in his hands at all times. He more than enjoyed the game. He was obsessed with it. Friends say he had to play.

Kevin Maurice Garnett was born May 19, 1976, in Mauldin, South Carolina. His mother and father never married. Kevin grew up with this mother, step-father, and two sisters. Kevin’s step-father did not support Kevin playing basketball. He wouldn’t even allow a basketball hoop in the driveway. Kevin found the basketball court at a local park to be his real home.

In high school he was voted Mr. Basketball. He averaged 25 points and 18 rebounds a game. High school coaches say he was a generous team player. He easily could have scored more points a game, but he passed the ball and helped others score. It wasn’t about how many points he made; it was about playing the game he loved.

Kevin entered the 1995 NBA draft right out of high school. He was the first player to go from high school to the NBA in twenty years. On October 2, 1995, Kevin signed a three-year, $5.6 million contract with the Minnesota Timberwolves. He was just 19 years old.

The NBA has proved to be a good fit for K.G. In his second season with the Timberwolves, he went to the All-Star Game. In fact, he became the first Timberwolves player to start in the All-Star Game. He also led the team to its first playoff game that same year.

The 6’11” forward remains loyal to the team that first drafted him back in 1995. In 1997 he signed a record $125 million contract over six years. This was the largest deal ever for an athlete in a team sport. In 2003 he agreed to a five year, $100 million deal with the Timberwolves. What does the future hold for K.G.? More basketball, of course, and lots more money!!!
Understanding

1. What does the word **obsess** mean? __________________________________________________________

2. What was unique about Garnett’s draft into the NBA? __________________________________________

3. What does the word **generous** mean? ________________________________________________________

4. Why did Kevin’s high school coaches describe him as **generous**? _______________________________

5. What position does Garnett play? _____________________________________________________________

6. How would you define the word **loyal** in this story? _________________________________________

7. What state do the Timberwolves call home? ___________________________________________________

Writing

**Option A:** Summarize the story in your own words.

**Option B:** Write about your favorite sport or your favorite athlete.

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