

STEP INTO READING®

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STEP

5

NASCAR'S GREATEST DRIVERS



By Angela Roberts

**Illustrated
with photographs**


Introduction

NASCAR Fever

Imagine zooming around a racetrack at nearly 200 miles per hour. It's over 120 degrees in your car. You're hot, thirsty, and strapped into a tiny seat. You must stay focused for 400, 500, even 600 miles as tens of thousands of roaring fans cheer you on. A lot of money is at stake. And pride. Will you be the first to cross the finish line?

There is no stopping a NASCAR driver—or the sport itself. There are NASCAR racetracks all over the country, from New York to California. Seventy-five million people call themselves NASCAR fans. The sport that started small on






dirt tracks and beaches in the South is now the hottest sport in America!

NASCAR is called *stock-car* racing because the cars driven in the early days of the sport came from a car dealer's regular supply, or *stock*, of cars. Today's stock-car racers still drive standard cars, although now they're made to be driven safely and quickly on a track. This makes NASCAR very different from other styles of racing. For example, Indy car racing has always used specially made race cars built from the ground up.





Unlike other sports with seasons of only a few months, NASCAR racing takes place almost all year long. The first race is in February. It's the big Daytona 500. The drivers have a chance to compete in thirty-five more races through November, racking up as many points as they can. They each hope to win the Nextel Cup, NASCAR's biggest prize! The champion claims the trophy and more than \$5 million in bonus money.

Many NASCAR fans have a favorite driver. They love to wear hats and T-shirts to show their loyalty. There have been many great NASCAR stars for fans to cheer on. Let's meet some of the best of all time.

A sellout crowd watches as drivers take the green flag to start the Daytona 500.

Are you ready to take the plunge into chapters?

Do you still like books with colorful pictures?

This book is just right for you!

NASCAR's Greatest Drivers

Glenn moved to Daytona and got bit by the racing bug. Jeff competed in midget cars when he was five years old. Richard followed in his father's footsteps. Janet flew airplanes and trained with NASA.

They came from different backgrounds but had one thing in common. *A love for speed!* They were fast, fearless, and focused. They were NASCAR's best. Read all about them!

