



Joanne Kilgour Dowdy

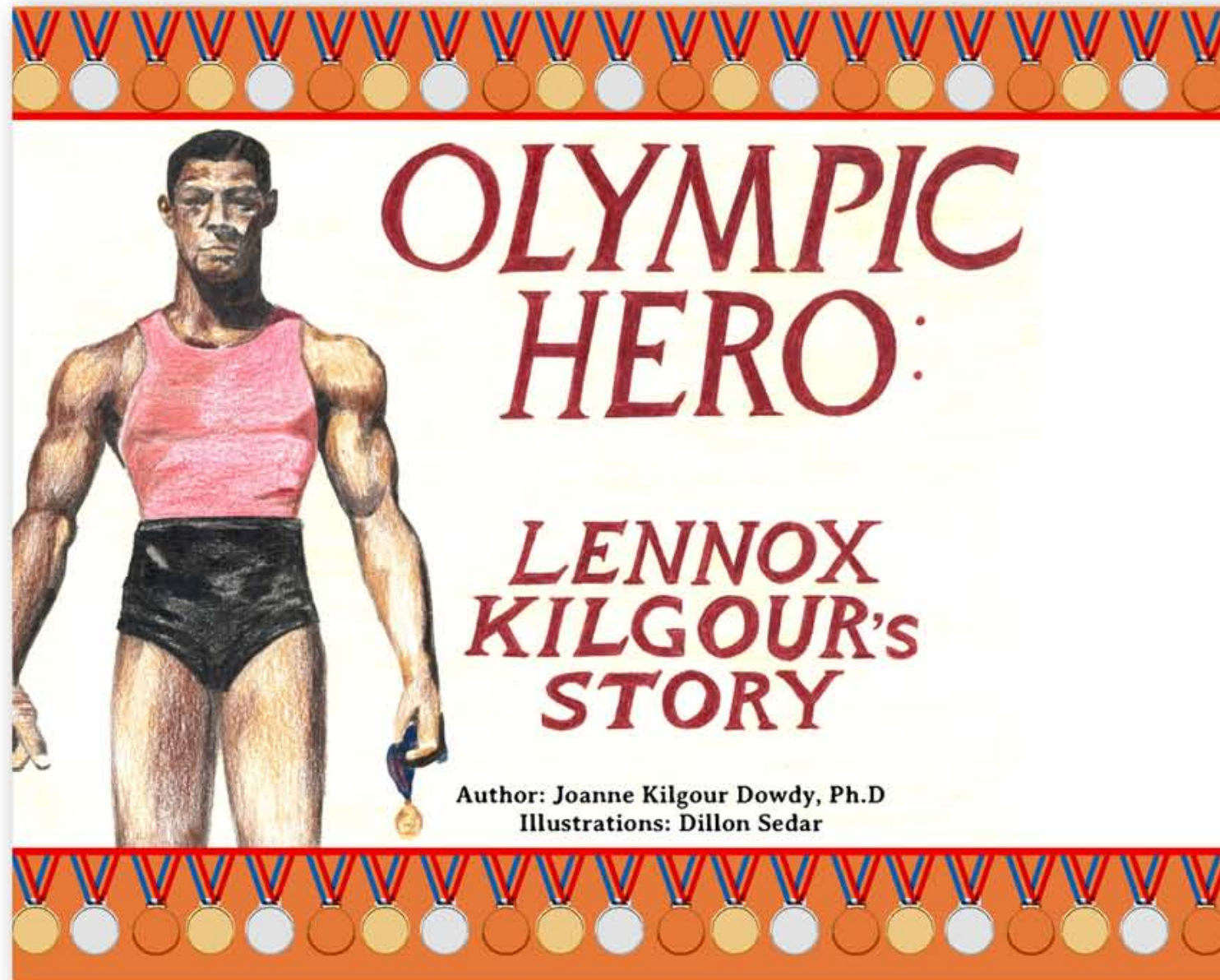
Born in Trinidad, Joanne Kilgour Dowdy is Professor of Adolescent/Adult Literacy at Kent State University (OH) in the School of Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum Studies. She received a Ph.D. in Literacy Studies from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a M.A.T. in English from the Teachers College, Columbia University, and a B.F.A. in Theater from the Julliard School in New York. As well as many articles and book chapters, she is the author of nine previous books that explore women's issues, empowerment, and issues concerning Caribbean and pan-African people.

"Olympic Hero", the story of her father's Olympic accomplishments, is her first children's book.

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"Olympic Hero: Lennox Kilgour's Story" is a book for young readers that recounts the journey of a young weightlifter from his neighborhood gym to become a medal-winner at the Helsinki Olympics and other competitions. The reader learns about the challenges that Lennox overcame with the help of coaches, fellow athletes, and his community and his determination to succeed in his sport. At the end of his career, he in turn mentored young athletes as a way to pass on the knowledge that he received and the athletic skills he developed.

This book is...a moving story of the athletes who were central to the sport of weightlifting at a time which can be described as the golden age of weightlifting in Trinidad and Tobago. It gives insight to the Olympic pioneering efforts with all its complexities, trials and triumphs...in a simple lyrical style to motivate, inspire and educate....This touching delightful biographical journey...ebbs and flows with a soft but stinging sincerity of the qualities and experiences of an Olympic Champion which is quite relevant today.

This little treasure can motivate children everywhere.

Joan Osborne
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bronze
athlete
from
an
island
where
he was
born
smiling
making people
smile
because
he
shone.

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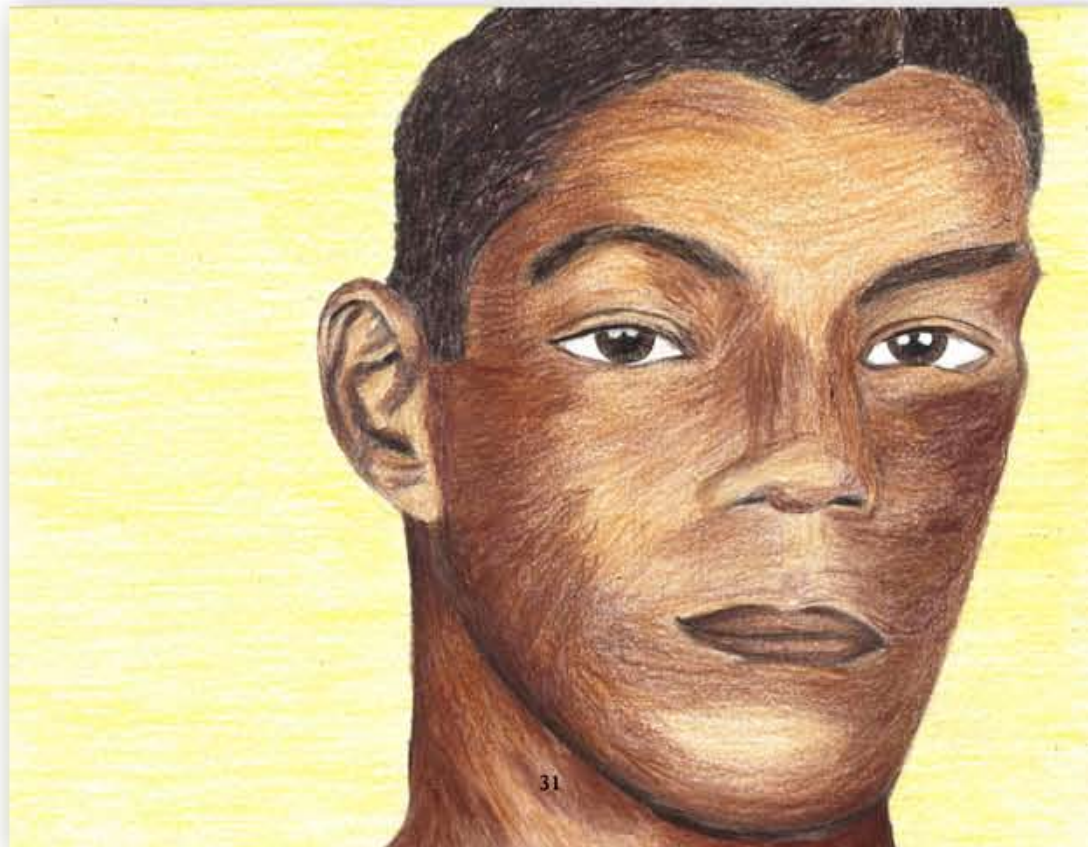


he lifted
spirits,
snatched
the youth
who wanted
to learn
and
pressed
on
smiling
smiling
smiles
of
bronze.

"Olympic Hero"
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"I have written it like a poem, even though it does not look like a poem on the page. It unfolds in episodes. The illustrations help to make concrete what I am describing in each entry. "Since it is a children's book, I wanted them to come away with a "can do" message from the story. Certainly I would not be a professor who writes for a living without the example of endurance and self confidence that I witnessed in my parents."

"I always talk to people about Lennox as if he is still physically present. His spirit is very real to me. If people find that strange, that's okay."

Comparing Olympic Hero to her past body of work, Kilgour Dowdy thinks this is a treasure that she has been digging for over the last 15 years.

"Every person who has ever celebrated the struggle and victories of our athletes is warmly remembered in this book. I hope and pray that others will pick up their pens and their paint brushes and get busy documenting the lives of our heroes and sheroes for our nation to keep them in their hearts and hands."

"My work is always about community, about celebrating the people in our community. In that spirit I offer another example of the stories that we need to tell. Sooner rather than later." *Trinidad Express Newspapers*

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