

Pick up a copy of this month's *Deadly Vibe* magazine, the special football edition, and complete the following activities.

READING

A MAGIC YEAR

One of our greatest sporting legends caps off a spectacular year with a Grand Final win.

After spending 73 years wandering the premiership wilderness and surviving a tumultuous relocation, 2005 was the year that the Sydney Swans finally got their hands on the AFL's holy grail, and no Swans player was happier than Michael O'Loughlin. Since making his debut with the Swans back in 1995, Michael has remained one of the club's leading figures. He has been one of Sydney's sporting icons since moving from South Australia as a teenager, so it's no wonder that he was whooping up the Swans' historic victory in September.

Adding to his Grand Final glory was the fact that Michael was part of the side which came painfully close to winning the flag in 1996 – the year in which Sydney were defeated by the Kangaroos.

Back then, Michael was just 19 and playing alongside the likes of Swans' legends Paul Kelly and Tony Lockett. While the Swans' close miss was heartbreaking for Michael, he didn't have the experience to realise just how rarely those types of opportunities came along.

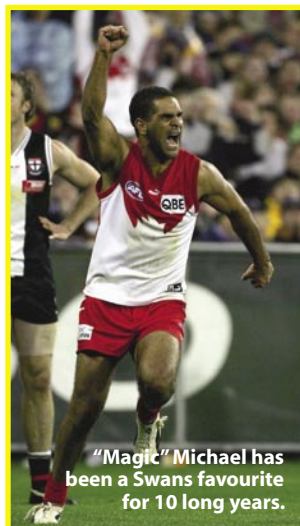
So, after years of working to keep Sydney competitive, Michael was able to savour Grand Final success far more.

After being hindered by injuries in 2004, Michael finished the season strong and carried his good form into 2005. He was also named in the AFL Indigenous Team of the Century – a great honour. To add to his list of accolades in 2005, Michael also received the Deadly Award for Outstanding Achievement in AFL only days before the Grand Final.

Most footballers will tell you that a career seems to go by in the blink of an eye. The opportunities for a premiership are few and far between, and for some it may never come at all. The prize for a lifetime of dreams, training and hard work can come down to just one mark or one kick. For Michael, all his hard work and dedication certainly paid off in 2005.



Michael was in top form throughout the 2005 season.



"Magic" Michael has been a Swans favourite for 10 long years.

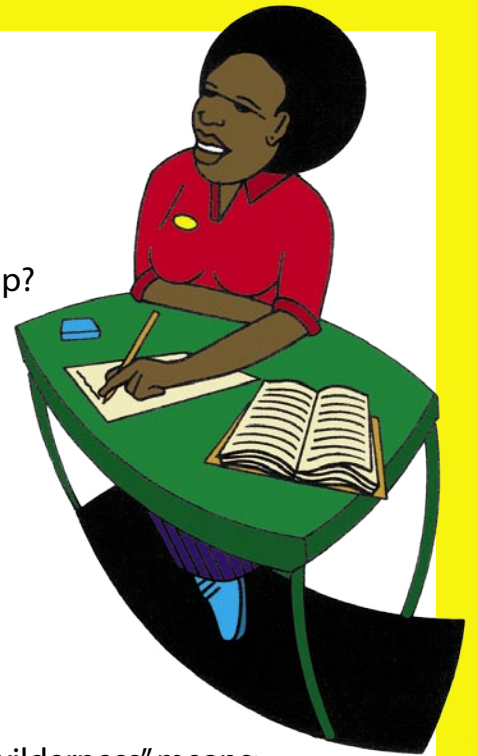




COMPREHENSION

Circle the correct answer:

1. How many years ago did the Swans (as South Melbourne) win the premiership?
 - a. 2005 years
 - b. 1995 years
 - c. 73 years
2. The first question in the text is:
 - a. a question
 - b. a statement
 - c. an exclamation
3. In this text, "wandering the premiership wilderness" means:
 - a. walking onto the football field
 - b. the team hasn't won a premiership for a long time
 - c. holding up the premiership cup
4. When did Michael O'Loughlin make his debut with the Swans?
 - a. 1995
 - b. 2005
 - c. 1996
5. In what order did these things happen? Write numbers in the boxes.
 - Swans win the 2005 premiership
 - Michael O'Loughlin moves from South Australia as a teenager
 - Michael O'Loughlin joins the Swans





6. How many words can you make from the word **SPECTACULAR**?

GRAPHIC OUTLINE

Skimming and scanning for information

Constructing a graphic outline

7. Find and highlight the following phrases/clauses from the text.

8. Match the words with their meaning

WORD	MEANING
spectacular year	a player's season is interrupted by injuries
debut	Grand Final
hindered by injuries	a year full of success
list of accolades	first year with a club
premiership	list of achievements



GRAPHIC OUTLINE *continued.*

9. Fill in the following timeline of important events in Michael O'Loughlin's career

Year	Event
1995	Michael O'Loughlin makes his _____ with _____
199_	Sydney Swans defeated by the K_____ Michael was ___ years old.
200_	had a season interrupted by injuries, but finished strong
2005	named in the AFL I_____ T_____ of the C_____
200_	received a Deadly Award for _____
200_	Sydney Swans win the _____

10. What makes Michael O'Loughlin "one of our greatest sporting legends"?



The writer has used a lot of positive words to describe Michael's career.

11. Write your own words next to the writer's"

"a magic year" _____

"one of our greatest sporting legends" _____

"one of Sydney's sporting icons" _____

Imagine that you have been requested to make a speech to a Year 6 class to sum up Michael O'Loughlin's achievements in his career so far.

12. Using the information from the timeline and your own ideas, plan and write the speech.

Opening statement
Achievement 1
Achievement 2
Achievement 3
Concluding statement