

Arnold Palmer dies at 87 of complications from heart problems

Required Annotations	Student-Created Annotations	Summary / Questions / Reflection
----------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------------

Comprehension	-ship=the art or skill of; duct=lead; cred=believe; trans=across, beyond	Comments
---------------	---	----------

Golfing legend Arnold Palmer died Sunday afternoon in Pittsburgh, his longtime spokesman and friend Doc Giffin told ESPN. Palmer was 87. According to his longtime agent, Alastair Johnston, Palmer died of complications from heart problems. Johnston said Palmer was admitted to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian on Thursday for some cardiovascular work and weakened over the past few days.

Palmer, who was nicknamed "The King," won seven major championships during his professional career, which spanned more than five decades. He won the Masters four times, The Open twice and the U.S. Open once. [...]

Palmer was born Sept. 10, 1929, in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, the oldest of four children. His father, Deacon, became the **greenskeeper** at Latrobe Country Club in 1921 and the club pro in 1933.

Palmer began his professional career in 1954. He quickly picked up his first PGA Tour win at the 1955 Canadian Open in his rookie season, and his first-round 64 remained the best opening round of his career. He went on to win 62 titles on the PGA Tour, fifth-most all time, and 92 including international and senior victories. He was PGA Player of the Year twice (1960 and '62) and the tour's leading money winner four times, with total tournament earnings of almost \$7 million.

Beyond golf, Palmer was a pioneer in sports marketing, and he paved the way for scores of other athletes to **reap** millions from endorsements. Some four decades after his final PGA Tour win, Palmer ranked among the highest earners in golf.

"There is no way to adequately express the immense sense of loss that we all feel with this news," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement to tour members. "It is not an exaggeration to say there would be no modern-day PGA Tour without Arnold Palmer. There would be no PGA Tour Champions without Arnold Palmer. There would be no Golf Channel without Arnold Palmer. ... The fact that his popularity never **waned** more than a quarter-century after his last competitive victory speaks volumes to the man, the icon and the legendary figure he was."

Palmer played at least one PGA Tour event every season for 52 **consecutive** years, ending with the 2004 Masters. He spearheaded the growth of the 50-and-older Champions Tour, winning 10 times and drawing some of the biggest crowds. [...]

Palmer won the Masters in 1958, 1960, 1962 and 1964 and is one of two champions -- along with Jack Nicklaus -- who are members of Augusta National. Nicklaus (six) and Tiger Woods (four) are the only golfers who have won as many Masters titles.

"I was shocked to hear that we lost a great friend -- and that golf lost a great friend," Nicklaus said in a statement. "We just lost one of the **incredible** people in the game of golf and in all of sports." Nicklaus said he last spoke to Palmer on his birthday, Sept. 10, and that Palmer "sounded great."

"It's hard to believe that Arnold has passed, and I'm deeply saddened by his loss," Woods said in a statement. "He meant so much to the game and to me personally. I knew that I could always call him for advice, and I looked forward to seeing him at Bay Hill and the Masters. Arnold touched so many people. My kids were born at the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies, and his **philanthropic** work will be remembered along with his accomplishments in golf. It was an honor and privilege to have known Arnold, and I'm forever grateful for his friendship." [...]

It was Palmer who gave golf the modern version of the Grand Slam: winning all four professional majors in one year. He came up with the idea after he won the Masters and U.S. Open in 1960. Palmer was runner-up at The Open, which he later called one of the biggest disappointments of his career. But his appearance alone **invigorated** the event, which Americans had been ignoring for years. [...]

Palmer never won the PGA Championship, and so he finished one major short of capturing a career Grand Slam. But the standard he set went beyond trophies. It was the way he treated people, looking everyone in the eye with a smile and a wink. He signed every autograph and made sure it was **legible**. He made every fan feel like an old friend.

"I've respected a number of players who came before me, but Arnold Palmer [and his **conduct**] were my model on and off the course," said Phil Mickelson. "I'm saddened by his death, but I'm a better player and perhaps a better person thanks to his example." [...]

Said Nicklaus: "Arnold **transcended** the game of golf. He was more than a golfer or even great golfer. He was an icon. He was a legend. Arnold was someone who was a pioneer in his sport. He took the game from one level to a higher level, virtually by himself. ... We were great competitors who loved competing against each other, but we were always great friends along the way. Arnold always had my back, and I had his. We were always there for each other. That never changed.

"He was the king of our sport and always will be."

1. Look at paragraph six, which begins, "There is no way to adequately express." List three claims included in this paragraph.
2. If you made the claim that Palmer was more than just a great golfer, what evidence from the article would you use to support that claim?
3. What is ironic about Palmer and his idea of the modern version of the Grand Slam?