

# MRS SZELINGOWSKI – GRADE 5

Mrs. Szelingowski's class chose **Serena Williams** as their hero. Just recently, at the age of 35, Williams won her 23<sup>rd</sup> Grand Slam singles title, an accomplishment that no other tennis player has accomplished before. Growing up as African-Americans living in poverty in Compton, CA, both Serena and her sister, Venus, were unlikely candidates to become tennis stars. Throughout her whole life, Serena felt like an underdog and used that motivation as her driving force to become the greatest tennis player of all time. She earned her first Grand Slam at Wimbledon at the age of 17 in 1999, and just recently won her 23<sup>rd</sup> Grand Slam last January. She is an inspiration to our class because of her drive, perseverance, and determination to be the best.

We read NewsELA articles and watched inspirational videos about Williams. When we were done, we discussed all of her accomplishments and created a Word Cloud listing words (adjectives and nouns) to describe her.

