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# A Lesson on My First Baseball Game

by Stephanie Shuerger

**Grade Level:** Grade 7

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:**

**Lesson Keywords:**

**Lesson Description:**

**Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.4a: Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### My First Baseball Game

by

**Content:** I remember everything about my first Cubs game, although it was two years ago. My uncle came to take me to it on a Saturday in spring, a bright sunny day. He drove a great distance from Indiana to Chicago, but we did not travel in his car to Wrigley Field. We traveled by train to the ballpark because he said traffic would be challenging.

He was right about how crowded it would be; in fact when we arrived it was so crowded that it was difficult to walk from the train. I was only 10, not very tall at all, so it was hard to see over all the people who crowded the sidewalk. Finally we got to the entrance, and then we went to our seats after we handed in our tickets. We had tickets that were for seats far back, and it seemed like I climbed about 200 steps to get to them. When we got there I realized that even though we were at the upper level, I could see everything clearly, the entire field, this expansive view was much better than watching it on TV.

Then the game started, and everyone cheered when the Cubs took the field. This really was going to be a great experience, so much better than watching it on TV. The man next to me said, This is going to be the year. They are playing really well.

My uncle said to him, Lets hope this is the one. But then he whispered to me, I think he is over-confident, well have to wait and see. I am optimistic but remember last year? They started the season winning and then they had a long losing streak.

Hey, Hey, Hey! The Cub batter hit a ball that sizzled all the way to the wall.

Just then I heard Hot dogs! Peanuts! I looked and saw a vendor with a big tray hanging from his shoulders full of hot dogs in plastic wrap and bags of peanuts.

Two hot dogs, my uncle shouted, and he gave the man next to us \$4 to pass along down to the man with the hot dogs. He sent back two steaming hot dogs.

This is great, I said to my uncle as I started to munch on my hot dog.

Not so great, he said. We just struck out, this inning is not a winning one.

While I had been watching the hot dogs, the batter had misjudged the pitches and swung at them. Baseball is a game of predicting, my uncle said. The batter has to predict what the trajectory of the ball will be and determine if it will be a good one to swing at or if its going to be a mistake. Theres no certainty, its a guess; the batter has seconds to make that decision.

It continued that way for the rest of the game, with us enjoying the food, and my uncle saying maybe next time each time a player misjudged the pitch and returned to the bench. We purchased peanuts, we even got another hot dog, and I believe I had never eaten such delicious hot dogs. We hope every time a batter started out, and then were disappointed as one by one they struck out and retired back to the bench. Still, it was a remarkably pleasant day with great food, fine weather, and special time with my uncle. The final score was 7 to 0, so in conclusion it was nine innings of hoping and then losing, so we were disappointed about the result but delighted in the food and fascinated with the way each batter attempted to get a hit.

Tomorrow, theyll win, Im certain! one person exclaimed. Definitely, another replied. The pitcher tomorrow is outstanding, theyll reverse course then.

When we were returning, I asked my uncle, Why was everyone so optimistic when the score was 0 today how can they predict a winning performance tomorrow?

Thats what it means to be a Cubs fan: we believe in tomorrow. When they win, its the best, and if they lose we expect it will get better, even though experience may tell us it wont. Every year, we hope; every game we hope, and we dont abandon hope, thats loyalty. Its about supporting your team no matter what; Cubs fans are loyal.

I see what you mean. Thanks for taking me, and thanks for being loyal to me.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** optimistic **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The speaker's father mentions that he is optimistic about the Cubs' baseball season. What does his dad mean when he uses "optimistic" in this sentence?

- A:** He is worried the season will not turn out well.
- B:** He hopes that the Cubs will play well this season.
- C:** He thinks that the Cubs are the best team in baseball.
- D:** He wishes his son understood baseball more.

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "optimistic" correctly?

- A:** I was optimistic that I failed the exam.
  - B:** My car had optimistic gas mileage.
  - C:** I studied a lot for the test and am optimistic about my grade.
  - D:** The optimistic temperature range in October is the mid 70s.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** retired **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The speaker in the story makes mention of the players batting and being "retired." What does "retired" mean in this context?

- A:** The batter has ended their baseball career.
- B:** The batter has been injured and will not play in that game again.
- C:** The batter struck out and has returned to the bench or dugout.
- D:** The manager of the team has taken the batter out of the game.

**Question:** Which one of the sentences uses the word "retired" in the same way that the author used?

- A:** After a young day, the girl retired to her room.
  - B:** After a long career of thirty, the firefighter retired.
  - C:** The cheese in the refrigerator was retired.
  - D:** The school gave Mrs. Anderson a party when she retired.
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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 500 words essay on .... Make sure to provide specific examples.

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