



A Lesson on My First Baseball Game by Matthew Lacey

Grade Level: Grade 7

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Baseball

Cubs

Lesson Description: Student will read the selection, "My first baseball game" and be able to pull out vocabulary words from the text. Students will be able to learn the definition of these vocabulary words and then be able to use their new vocabulary words in sentences afterwards. Students will also be able to answer discussion questions that will show how they comprehended the story and share their point of view on the reading. After the discussion questions student will write a structured essay in order to assess their ability comprehend the reading and use of new vocabulary.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.6: Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1b: Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1d: Establish and maintain a formal style.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3c: Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

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. Wed 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.

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: What does it mean when it says they were optimistic even when the score was zero?

WordPhraseTier: 2

Question: Why was everyone so "optimistic" when the score was 0 today?

- A: They were unhappy about the score
- B: They thought the Cubs were still going to do good even if they lost
- C: The Cubs were winning the game
- D: They were happy that the Cubs were losing the game

Question: Optimistic- hopeful and confident about the future

- A: Even after everything I am optimistic things will work out.
- B: I am optimistic that everything that can go wrong will go wrong.
- C: I am optimistic that they are not going to show up.
- D: Kyle was optimistic that she was going to hurt him.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Expansive **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story the author says, "I could see everything clearly, the entire field, this expansive view was much better than watching it on TV." What does the word "expansive" mean?

- A: covering a wide area in terms of space
- B: very important information
- C: costing a lot of money
- D: easy to receive

Question: Which one these sentences below uses the word "expansive" correctly?

- A: After what I believed I found out it was more expansive to receive than I thought.
- B: I was going to buy it but it was too expansive.
- C: The data we retrieved from research was veyr expansive in order to find a cure.
- D: As we looked over the cliffs we could see the expansive canyons of the landscape.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Remarkably **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in the story said, "We?d 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." What does "remarkably" mean?

- A: Something that is irrelevant and not important
- B: In a way that is worthy of attention.
- C: In a way that it is hurtful to someone.
- D: A surprising event that takes place.

Question: Which one if the sentences below uses the word "remarkably" correctly?

- A: The students work was so remarkable that the scores were the lowest out of anyone.
- B: I did it so I could remarkably disturb their attention.
- C: A event remarkably took place because he showed up out of nowhere.
- D: The water looked remarkably clean.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Trajectory **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the reading the author says, "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 it?s going to be a mistake. There?s no certainty, it?s a guess; the batter has seconds to make that decision.? .. What does "trajectory" mean?

- A: Information received from research
- B: Where something will be placed
- C: The path followed by a projectile flying or an object
- D: Going the wrong way

Question: Which one of the sentences below use the word " trajectory" correctly?

- A: Based on the degree the ball was hit I can predict the trajectory.
- B: The trajectory for today is a pop quiz.
- C: The trajectory of the story was patience is important.
- D: The horrible things that happened was trajectory due to their behavior.

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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 two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why does the Uncle care so much about the Cubs wining?

Why does the Uncle care so much about the Cubs winning? Is there a deeper meaning when the Cubs win? what does it symbolize?

2 - What do sports do for people?

Other than the joy of wining what role can sports play in a person's life?

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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.

Essay Topic: Why was the kid more worried about everything except the score when the Unlce was worried about the Cubs winning? Explain both point of views on the game.

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