



American Baseball Foundation BASIC Lesson Overview Reading Grades 3 and 4

The lessons were sponsored by the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Red Mountain Writing Project and written by Dr. Jennifer Summerlin (main author), Tiona Fowler, and Dr. Tonya Perry

Lesson #	Read Aloud Text:	Character Trait Connector Question	Additional Books Used for Partner Reading:	Character Trait
1 Week 1 Lesson 1	<i>Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings</i> By: Deborah Hopkinson	-What 3 things have you learned about the history of women's baseball from reading this book? -Explain a text-to-text connection you can make with the poem read aloud. -Do you think girls had to be brave during this time? Why or why not?	-- <i>Roasted Peanuts</i> by Tim Egan -- <i>Dirt on Their Skirts</i> by Doreen Rappaport -- <i>Say-Hey and the Babe: Two Mostly True Baseball Stories</i> by Neil Waldman	Bravery: Being cable of completing a task in spite of perceived danger. Poem: "First Girls in Little League Baseball" J.P.L. http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/242192
2 Week 1 Lesson 2	Baseball Blackout By: Ellen Guidone	Scooby Do helps solve a baseball mystery. Can you read the words and follow the pictures to find out how?	-- <i>Mudball</i> by Matt Tavares -- <i>Baseball Saved Us</i> by Ken Mochizuki -- <i>Players in Pigtales</i> by Shana Corey	Helpful: Doing things for other people.
3 Week 1 Lesson 3	My First Soccer Game By: Alyssa Satin Capucilli	What is it like to learn something that is entirely new? Is it fun to learn along with your friends? How hard is it to have success in kicking, passing, dribbling etc.?	-- <i>Lou Gehrig: The Luckies Man</i> by David A. Adler -- <i>H is for Home Run: A Baseball Alphabet</i> by Brad Herzog -- <i>A Picture Book of Jackie Robinson</i> by David A. Adler	Learner: Somebody who studies or learns to do something.
4 Week 1 Lesson 4	<i>Catching the Moon: The Story of One Little Girl's Baseball Dream</i> By: Crystal Hubbard	-Before reading the text, ask students to predict what they think would be issues facing the first female member of an all-male professional team. -While reading students confirm their predictions.	-- <i>Home Run: The Story of Babe Ruth</i> by Robert Burleigh -- <i>Poem Runs: Baseball Poems</i> by Douglas Florian -- <i>A, B, C's of Baseball</i> by Peter Golenbock	Ambitious: Having a strong desire to be successful in life. Repeat Poem: "Goal Mind" by J. Patrick Lewis
5 Week 1 Lesson 5	<i>Baseball Ballerina or Baseball Ballerina Strikes Out</i> By: K. C. McKeon	-How is the main character's problem different from the problems experienced by girls in the past? How are the problems similar to those experienced by girls in the past? Do people still experience obstacles when trying to make their dreams come true? Can you think of an example when this might happen?	-- <i>Lucky Luls</i> by Gary Soto -- <i>Brothers at Bat</i> by Audrey Vernick -- <i>Randy Riley's Really Big Hit</i> by Chris Van	Persistence: The quality of continuing steadily despite problems or difficulties. Read "Shortstop" by Douglas Florian
6 Week 2 Lesson 1	<i>Mudball</i> By: Matt Tavares	-What did Andy Oyler do that was so amazing? -Do you believe in good luck? Why or why not? Why do you think Andy Oyler's luck really changed?		Resolve: Firmness of purpose or intent; determination. Read "Sure Thing" by J. Patrick Lewis

7 Week 2 Lesson 2	<i>Brothers At Bat</i> By: Audrey Vernick	-If you could pick a team name for the Acerra family that reflected who they were as a family, what would you choose? -Use evidence from the text to support and defend your team name.	Dusen -- <i>There Goes Ted Williams</i> by Matt Tavares -- <i>Teammates</i> by Peter Golenbock -- <i>Casey BACK at Bat</i> by Dan Gutman -- <i>Just Like Josh Gibson</i> by Angela Johnson	Cooperative: Working or acting together with others, or done by people working or acting together. Read "Life Lines" by J. Patrick Lewis
8 Week 2 Lesson 3	<i>Becoming Babe Ruth</i> By: Matt Tavares	-What was the reason for sending Babe Ruth to Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys and how did this change his life forever? -When is a time in your life that something happened that at first seemed terrible but ended up being good for you?	-- <i>Becoming Babe Ruth</i> by Matt Tavares -- <i>Who's on First?</i> By Abbott & Costello (children's book) -- <i>Take Me Out to the Yakyu</i> by Aaron Meshon	Victorious: Having achieved a victory; conquering; triumphant. Read "School of Hard Knocks" by J. Patrick Lewis
9 Week 2 Lesson 4	Emmanuel's Dream By: Laurie Ann Thompson & Sean Qualls	How would it feel to be different from everyone else? How did Emmanuel have the other children play with him? How would it feel to go to a big city to live by yourself?	-- <i>A Batboy's Day</i> by James Buckley -- <i>All-Star! Honus Wagner and the Most Famous Baseball Card Ever</i> by Jane Yolen	Spiritual Strength: Relying on God to provide for all your needs
10 Week 2 Lesson 5	<i>Here Comes the Strike Outs</i> By: Leonard Kessler	-What do you notice about the main character, Bobby, in this story? -What words would you use to describe Bobby?	-- <i>At the Crack of the Bat: Baseball Poems</i> by Jane Yolen -- <i>Extra Innings: Baseball Poems</i> by Jane Yolen	Learner: Somebody who studies or learns to do something. Read "Going the Distance" by J. Patrick Lewis
11 Week 3 Lesson 1	Players in Pigtails By: Shana Corey	-Why do you think the fans were so skeptical to let the girls play? How do you think this made the girls feel? -Explain a text-to-self connection you can make with this book. When is a time you felt that others did not believe you could do something and how did this make you feel? How is your situation compare to the characters in the text?	-- <i>Sports! Sports! Sports: A Poetry Collection</i> by Jack Prelutsky	Tenacity: Tending to stick firmly to a decision, plan, or opinion without changing or doubting it. Poem: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" this poem can be found in the text and is about the main character.
12 Week 3 Lesson 2	Curious George Plays Baseball & Curious George at the Baseball Game By Margret & H.A. Reys	What makes a hero? What makes a star? How can Curious George become a friend of many people?	-- <i>Casey at the Bat</i> by Ernest Thayer -- <i>Two Strikes, Four Eyes</i> by Ned Delaney	Hero: A person whose positive actions
13 Week 3 Lesson 3	<i>Just Like Josh Gibson</i> By: Angela Johnson	-How are Gibson and Grandma alike? -How are Gibson and Grandma different? -Use specific examples to support your thinking.	-- <i>When Lightning Comes in a Jar</i> by Patricia Polacco	Goal Setter: Establishing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-targeted goals to make progress. Read Poem: "Goal Tending" by J. Patrick Lewis
14 Week 3 Lesson 4	The Quickest Kid in Clarksville by Pat Zietlow Miller	What is it like to be a role model? How does a person become someone that other students want to be like?	-- <i>How Georgie Radbourn Saved Baseball</i> by	Courageous: Being brave in a difficult situation.

15 Week 3 Lesson 5	Happy Like Soccer By Maribeth Boelts	Family support is vital for self-confidence and enjoyment of youth sports. What is it like to have your family watch you play sports? How can you share the sports experience with your family?	David Shannon -- <i>Playing Right Field</i> by Willy Welch -- <i>Mama Played Baseball</i> by David A. Adler - <i>Ballpark Mysteries Series</i> by David A. Kelly	Kindness: The practice of being sympathetic and compassionate towards others. Read Poem: "The High Road" by J. Patrick Lewis
16 Week 4 Lesson 1	We Love Baseball By Peggy Harrison	What is it like to be on a team? What things does a team do together? How can a person help his/her team?	<i>#1-The Fenway Foul-Up</i> <i>#2-The Pinstripe Ghost</i> <i>#3-The L.A. Dodger</i> <i>#4-The Astro Outlaw</i> <i>#5-The All-Star Joker</i> <i>#6-The Wrigley Riddle</i> <i>#7-The San Francisco Splash</i> <i>#8-The Missing Marlin</i> <i>#9-The Philly Fake</i> - <i>Baseball, Snakes, & Summer Squash:</i> <i>Poems About Growing Up</i> by Donald Graves	Cooperation: Working together to reach a goal
17 Week 4 Lesson 2	Young Pele Soccer's First Star By Lesa Cline-Ransome	How does the smallest player on the team become its leader? What does it take to become the best of something?	- <i>Baseball, Snakes, & Summer Squash:</i> <i>Poems About Growing Up</i> by Donald Graves	Perseverance: Willingness to work unceasingly toward a goal.
18 Week 4 Lesson 3	Pete the Cat Plays Ball By James Dean	Does every player on a team always do everything right? What happens after someone makes a mistake on the field? What makes a person a good teammate?	- <i>Baseball, Snakes, & Summer Squash:</i> <i>Poems About Growing Up</i> by Donald Graves	Initiative: To start something new
19 Week 4 Lesson 4	Cat at Bat By Susan Schade Don't Throw it to Mo! David Adler	What do sports have in common? What differences are there between baseball and American football?	- <i>Baseball, Snakes, & Summer Squash:</i> <i>Poems About Growing Up</i> by Donald Graves	Hero: A person who does courageous things on a daily basis
20 Week 4 Lesson 5	Roberto Clemente By Jonah Winter	What is a hero? How can you know that another person is a hero? What things are inside of a hero that are no in other people?	- <i>Hey Batter Batter: A Collection of Baseball Poems for Kids</i> by Bill Shane - <i>Opening Days: Sports Poems</i> by Lee Bennett Hopkins - <i>Change-Up: Baseball Poems</i> by Gene Fehler - <i>At the Crack of the Bat: Baseball Poems</i>	
21 Week 5 Lesson 1	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 1 & 2</i> By: David A. Kelly	-Based on the cover and back blurb, what do you predict this mystery will be about? Why? -Why was chapter one titled "The Green Monster"? -Who does Mike suspect stole Big D's bat? What do you think? Explain your thinking.	- <i>Opening Days: Sports Poems</i> by Lee Bennett Hopkins - <i>Change-Up: Baseball Poems</i> by Gene Fehler - <i>At the Crack of the Bat: Baseball Poems</i>	Determination: A fixed purpose or resolution, will, or intention. Read Poem: "Success Full" by J. Patrick Lewis
22 Week 5 Lesson 2	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 3 & 4</i> By: David A. Kelly	-What is the secret message on Fenway's scoreboard and how does Kate decipher the message? -What other evidences do Kate and Mike find that may help them solve the mystery?	- <i>At the Crack of the Bat: Baseball Poems</i> - <i>The Fastest Game on Two Feet: And Other Poems about How Sports Began</i> by Alice Low	Competitive: Inclined toward wanting to achieve more than others. Read Poem: "Practice Winning" by J. Patrick Lewis
23 Week 5 Lesson 3	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 5 & 6</i> By: David A. Kelly	-What are your thoughts about what was found in the souvenir shop's bin? -Explain what happens when Big D comes up to bat. Do you think	- <i>At the Crack of the Bat: Baseball Poems</i> - <i>The Fastest Game on Two Feet: And Other Poems about How Sports Began</i> by Alice Low - <i>Sports! Sports! Sports!: A Poetry Collection</i>	Consistency: The ability to maintain a particular standard or repeat a particular task with little variation. Read Poem: "Test of Character" by J. Patrick Lewis

		Nathan is holding Big D's bat at the end of chapter 6? Why or why not?	<i>by Lee Bennett Hopkins</i> <i>-Score!: 50 Poems to Motivate and Inspire</i> <i>by Charles Ghigna</i>	
24 Week 5 Lesson 4	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 7 & 8</i> By: David A. Kelly	-What does Nathan think will help Big D get a hit the next time he comes up to bat? -What is pine tar? How does pine tar help Kate to crack the case?		Talented: Showing an exceptional natural ability to do something. Read Poem: "Third Baseman" by Douglas Florian
25 Week 5 Lesson 5	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 9 & Dugout Notes</i> By: David A. Kelly	-Who do Kate and Mike get to meet after the game? If you could meet anyone, who would it be and why? -What did you learn from the Dugout Notes about Fenway stadium?		Encouraging: To motivate somebody to take a course of action or continue doing something. To give somebody hope confidence, or courage. Read Poem: "Poem Run" by Douglas Florian
Supplement 1	<i>Mama Played Baseball</i> By: David A. Adler & Chris O'Leary	-How does reading the Author's Note add to what you know about the story? -What is one thing that surprised you in this book? Why?		Self-Confident: Certain of having the ability, judgement, and resources needed to succeed. Poem: "A Swing and a Miss" J.P.L http://www.baseball-almanac.com/poetry/po_swing.shtml
Supplement	<i>How Babe Ruth Saved Baseball</i> By: Frank Murphy	-What do you already know about Babe Ruth? -How does thinking about what you already know help new information stick in your memory?		Courageous: The ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty, or pain without being overcome by fear or being deflected from a chosen course of action. Read Poem: "Warm-Up" by Douglas Florian
Supplement 3	<i>Henry Aaron's Dream</i> By: Matt Tavares	How was life, growing up in Mobile, Alabama in 1940, similar to and different from Willie Mays? -What do you think would be a characteristic these two players would have in common? Explain your thinking.		Perseverance: Steady persistence in a course of action despite obstacles. Read Poem: "Play Ball!!" L.M.F
Supplement 4	<i>Testing the Ice</i> by Sharon Robinson	How would it have been to grow up with a very famous father?		
Supplement 5	<i>Batter Up Wombat</i> By Helen Lester	How difficult would it be to go to a new country and learn something completely new?		
Supplement 6	<i>Michaels' Rules</i> By Delores Jordan	Besides the rules regarding how to play the game, there could be others that help us to learn how to interact with each other		
Supplement 7	<i>Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball (Ch. 1)</i> By: David A. Adler	-What is a mystery? How are mysteries similar to or different from a puzzle? How do you predict this mystery will be solved? Use evidence from the first chapter to explain your thinking. -Do you think you would make a good detective? Why or why not? What types of skills or characteristics		Problem Solver: A thinker who focuses on the problem as stated and tries to synthesize information and knowledge to achieve a solution. Read Poem: "Ants Never Cry Uncle" by J. Patrick Lewis.

		might be important when solving mysteries? Why?		
Supplement 8	<i>Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball (Ch. 2)</i> By: David A. Adler	-Explain how Cam solves mysteries. Why do you think she always closes her eyes when she says "Click"? What does the phrase "a picture worth a thousand words" mean? How does this apply to Cam Jansen's talent?		Thinker: A person who devotes much time to thought or someone who reasons in a certain way to try and figure something out. Read Poem: "Think Tank" by J. Patrick Lewis
Supplement 9	<i>Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball (Ch. 3)</i> By: David A. Adler	-Do you wish you had a photographic memory like Cam? What pictures (people, places, events, etc) would you want to keep in your memory forever? How would you use your talent?		Initiative: Readiness and ability to initiate action. The power or ability to begin or to follow through energetically with a plan or task with enterprise and determination. Read Poem: "The Art of Start" by J. Patrick Lewis
Supplement 10	<i>Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball (Ch. 4)</i> By: David A. Adler	What do you notice about each of the characters in the Cam Jansen book? What are their defining character traits? Who do you like the most and who do you like the least? Explain your thinking. Which character are you most like? Why?		Decisive: Able to make sensible decisions and judgements on the basis of personal knowledge and experience. Read Poem: "The Umpire" by Douglas Florian
Supplement 11	<i>Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball (Ch. 5)</i> By: David A. Adler	-What happens when people "jump to conclusions"? Have you ever jumped to a conclusion? What happened? How did it feel to know you had assumed something incorrectly? Explain Cam Jansen's process for solving this mystery. Would you have done something differently from what she did? Why or why not?		Hard-Working: Tending to work at something until the job is done right. Read Poem: "Play Ball!" by Douglas Florian