



### American Baseball Foundation BASIC Lesson Overview Reading Grades 1 and 2

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. The ABF has amended this section by adding books for students who are reading below grade level. Note Week 5 can be used at any time, as deemed appropriate.

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. <a href="http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/242192">http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/242192</a>
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	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>Players in Pigtales</i> by Shana Corey -- <i>Lou Gehrig: The Luckies Man</i> by David A. Adler	Learner: Somebody who studies or learns to do something.
4 Week 1 Lesson 4	Hooray for Snail	How a story unfolds can be compared to running the bases to score a run.	-- <i>H is for Home Run: A Baseball Alphabet</i> by Brad Herzog	Perseverance: Continuing to work toward a goal, even though problems and obstacles arise.
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>A Picture Book of Jackie Robinson</i> by David A. Adler -- <i>Home Run: The Story of Babe Ruth</i> by Robert Burleigh -- <i>Poem Runs: Baseball Poems</i> by Douglas Florian	Persistence: The quality of continuing steadily despite problems or difficulties. Read "Shortstop" by Douglas Florian
6 Week 2 Lesson 1	Watch Me Throw the Ball By Mo Willems	Throwers eventually have to face the reality of their throws as per the		Humility: Knowing that you can't do all things all alone. A person can do some things well, while another person can do other things well.

		illustrations. How to have fun with the simple act of throwing a ball.	-- <i>A, B, C's of Baseball</i> by Peter Golenbock	
7 Week 2 Lesson 2	I Love My New Toy By Mo Willems	What appears to be true at first glance may not be true after investigation.	-- <i>Lucky Luls</i> by Gary Soto -- <i>Brothers at Bat</i> by Audrey Vernick	Empathy: Understanding how another person might feel and acting kindly toward that person.
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>Randy Riley's Really Big Hit</i> by Chris Van 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	Victorious: Having achieved a victory; conquering; triumphant. Read "School of Hard Knocks" by J. Patrick Lewis
9 Week 2 Lesson 4	Get a Hit, Mo By Mo Willems	Mo must overcome some physical obstacles and be in position to have some great luck. Students are directed to observe how Mo thinks.	-- <i>Just Like Josh Gibson</i> by Angela Johnson -- <i>Becoming Babe Ruth</i> by Matt Tavares	Persistence: : The quality of continuing steadily despite problems or difficulties.
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>Who's on First?</i> By Abbott & Costello (children's book) -- <i>Take Me Out to the Yakyu</i> by Aaron Meshon	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>A Batboy's Day</i> by James Buckley -- <i>All-Star! Honus Wagner and the Most Famous Baseball Card Ever</i> by Jane Yolen	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>At the Crack of the Bat: Baseball Poems</i> by Jane Yolen	Hero: A person whose positive actions help other people.
13 Week 3 Lesson 3	Can I Play Too? By Mo Willems	What is inside of a person that we can't see, even if we open him up physically? What do we like about other people?	-- <i>Extra Innings: Baseball Poems</i> by Jane Yolen	Friendship: Having a special bond with another person because we like the way that person acts.
14 Week 3 Lesson 4	Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia part 1 by Peggie Parish	Sometimes it is hard to understand what another person says, because the words may have more than one meaning. Amelia Bedelia seems to have this problem.	-- <i>Sports! Sports! Sports: A Poetry Collection</i> by Jack Prelutsky -- <i>Casey at the Bat</i> by Ernest Thayer	Being a good listener: Using your listening ears to understand what other people are trying to say to you.
15 Week 3 Lesson 5	Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia part 2 by Peggie Parish	How do you want your friends to be toward you? Students study Amelia's behavior in terms of how	-- <i>Two Strikes, Four Eyes</i> by Ned Delaney	Kindness: The practice of being sympathetic and compassionate towards others. Read Poem: "The High Road" by J. Patrick Lewis

		she interacts with others. She is very kind to all whom she encounters.		
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>When Lightning Comes in a Jar</i> by Patricia Polacco -- <i>How Georgie Radbourn Saved Baseball</i> by 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 #1- <i>The Fenway Foul-Up</i> #2- <i>The Pinstripe Ghost</i> #3- <i>The L.A. Dodger</i> #4- <i>The Astro Outlaw</i> #5- <i>The All-Star Joker</i> #6- <i>The Wrigley Riddle</i> #7- <i>The San Francisco Splash</i> #8- <i>The Missing Marlin</i> #9- <i>The Philly Fake</i> - <i>Baseball, Snakes, &amp; Summer Squash: Poems About Growing Up</i> by Donald Graves - <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>	Cooperation: Working together to reach a goal
17 Week 4 Lesson 2	Don't Throw it to Mo! By Mo Willems	How does the smallest player on the team become its leader? What does it take to become the best of something?		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?		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?		Hero: A person who does courageous things on a daily basis
20 Week 4 Lesson 5	I Really Like Slop By Mo Willems	Students who really think about their past experiences can use their power of prediction—what might happen in the future.		Determination: A fixed purpose or resolution, will, or intention. Read Poem: "Success Full" by J. Patrick Lewis
21 Week 5 Lesson 1	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 1 &amp; 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.		Competitive: Inclined toward wanting to achieve more than others. Read Poem: "Practice Winning" by J. Patrick Lewis
22 Week 5 Lesson 2	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 3 &amp; 4</i> By: David A. Kelly	-What is the secret message on Fenway's scoreboard and how does Kate decipher the message? -What other evidence do Kate and Mike find that may help them solve the mystery?		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
23 Week 5 Lesson 3	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 5 &amp; 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 Nathan is holding Big D's bat at the end of chapter 6? Why or why not?		Talented: Showing an exceptional natural ability to do something. Read Poem: "Third Baseman" by Douglas Florian
24 Week 5 Lesson 4	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 7 &amp; 8</i>	-What does Nathan think will help Big D get a hit the next time he comes up to bat?		

	By: David A. Kelly	-What is pine tar? How does pine tar help Kate to crack the case?	- <i>The Fastest Game on Two Feet: And Other Poems about How Sports Began by Alice Low</i> - <i>Sports! Sports! Sports!: A Poetry Collection by Lee Bennett Hopkins</i> - <i>Score!: 50 Poems to Motivate and Inspire by Charles Ghigna</i>	
25 Week 5 Lesson 5	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 9 &amp; 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 Park?		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
Week 6 Lesson 1	<i>Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up Chapter 9 &amp; Dugout Notes</i> By: David A. Kelly	What makes reading mystery stories fun? Do you like guessing along with the characters as to "who done it?"		Decisive: Able to make sensible decisions and judgements on the basis of personal knowledge and experience. Read Poem: "The Umpire" by Douglas Florian