

My First Baseball Game

I remember my first Cubs game. My uncle came to take my sister and me to it. It was a sunny Saturday. He drove all the way from Indiana to get us. Then we took the train to the ballpark. He said it would be hard to find a parking space there, so he didn't drive there.

He was right. When we got there it was so crowded. We had tickets that were for seats far back. It seemed like I climbed about 300 steps to get to them. But when we got there and I turned around I could see everything. I saw the whole field. It was much better than watching it on TV.

Then the game started. Everyone cheered. The man next to me said, "This is going to be the year. They are playing really well."

My uncle said to him, "Let's hope this is the one." But then he whispered to us, "Jerome and Felicia, we'll have to wait and see. Remember last year? They started out well and then they lost at the end."

"Hey, Hey, Hey!" The Cub batter hit a ball far to the wall.

Just then I heard "Hot dogs!" "Peanuts!" I looked and saw a man with a big tray hanging from his shoulders. It was full of hotdogs in plastic wrap and bags of peanuts.

"Three hot dogs," my uncle shouted. Then he gave the man next to us \$6. He passed it to the man with the hot dogs. He sent back three hot dogs.

"This is great," I said to my uncle.

"Not so great," he said. "We just struck out."

While I had been watching the hotdogs, the team had struck out.

It went on that way for the rest of the game. We got peanuts. We even got another hot dog. And the Cubs kept losing. We'd all hope every time a batter came to bat. One by one they struck out. Still, everyone was staying happy. Even at the end. The score was 7 to 0. The Cubs never got a run.

"Tomorrow, they'll win," one person said. "Right. This was just a bad day for them," another said. "The pitcher tomorrow is really good."

When we were on the way home, I asked my uncle, "Why was everyone so sure they will win next time?"

"That's what it means to be a Cubs fan. We believe in tomorrow. When they win, it's the best. Every year, we hope. Every game we hope. That's loyalty. It's about supporting your team no matter what. Cubs fans are loyal. And it's about having fun as a family. Did you have fun?"

As our uncle was about to drive home to Indiana, Felicia said, "It was great. I see what you meant. Even when they lose, they are like a family, they stick together. Thanks for taking us. And thanks for being loyal to us."

Comprehensive Fiction Assessment

This assessment can be used with any story. It emphasizes CCSSR1—Read Closely, then make logical inferences with evidence, and CCSSR2—clarify the main/central idea of a passage; support important ideas with examples.

1. Identify Sequence:

What happened at the end? _____

2. Infer Character Traits:

What does trait mean? _____

Name one person the story. _____

What is one trait you infer that person has? _____

Evidence: Explain why you think that.

3. Identify Action: What is something that person does?

Infer Motive: Why do you think that person does that?

4. Summarize the passage in 3 sentences. Tell what is most important.

5. Infer the message or theme: What does the writer want you understand because you read the story?

Why do you think that is the message or theme?

Comprehensive Fiction Assessment answer key grades 3-4

This assessment can be used with any story. It emphasizes CCSSR1—Read Closely, then make logical inferences with evidence, and CCSSR2—clarify the main/central idea of a passage; support important ideas with examples.

1. Identify Sequence:

What happened at the end?

Students should answer: Felicia thanks her uncle or Felicia promises her uncle that she will be loyal.

2. Infer Character Traits:

What does trait mean?

Response should explain that a trait is a way a person is

Name one person the story.

What is one trait you infer that person has?

Possible responses:

The uncle: caring; hopeful

Evidence: he takes them to the game; he explains things to them; he tells them that it doesn't matter when the team loses.

Jerome: fun-loving

Evidence: He enjoys everything.

Felicia: thoughtful

She learns from her uncle's ideas

6. Identify Action: What is something that person does?

Student should identify an action by any of the characters.

Infer Motive: Why do you think that person does that?

Students should give logical response such as the uncle takes them to the game because he wants them to have fun.

7. Summarize the passage in 3 sentences. Tell what is most important.

Summary should include statements that lead up to the main idea.

The uncle takes two children to a baseball game, where they have a good time.

They learn that it doesn't matter if you win or lose the game.

He explains that loyalty is very important.

8. Infer the message or theme: What does the writer want you understand because you read the story?

Being loyal is important.

Why do you think that is the message or theme?

Students should explain that the uncle says that and that Felicia also says it.

Students may explain that the things the uncle does show it.

Students may explain that the Cubs themselves show loyalty during the game.