My First Baseball Game

My first baseball game was exciting. My uncle came to take my sister and me to it on a sunny Saturday. He drove all the way from Indiana to get us, and when we saw his car pull up we ran outside. Then we took the train to the ballpark because he said it would be hard to find a parking space there, so he didn't drive there.

He was right about that, when we got there it was so crowded. We had tickets that were for seats far back, and 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, and 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. So let's hope for the best."

"Hey, Hey, Hey!" Felicia shouted. 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 full of hotdogs 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, who passed three back to us.

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

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

While I had been watching the hot dogs, the team had struck out.

It went on that way for the rest of the game. We had great food--we got peanuts and even got another hot dog. The Cubs kept losing and we kept hoping. We'd all hope every time a batter came to bat. One by one they struck out. Still, we were having a good time. Then the game ended, and the score was 7 to 0. The Cubs never got a run.

"Tomorrow, they'll win," the man next to us said. "Right!" My uncle agreed. "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. We are loyal fans. When they win, it's the best, but if they lose, we still hope. 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 being together today?"

Felicia said, "Thank you the game and the lesson. I see what you mean. Even when they lose, they are like a family, they stick together. Thank you for being loyal to our family. We'll all stick *together win or lose.*"

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. I**nfer 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 5-6
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. I**nfer 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.