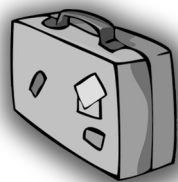




*The*  
**Baffling  
Baseball**  
*Mystery*



**Teacher's Guide**  
by  
**Carole Marsh**

Editorial Assistant: Paige Muh • Art & Design: Randolyn Friedlander

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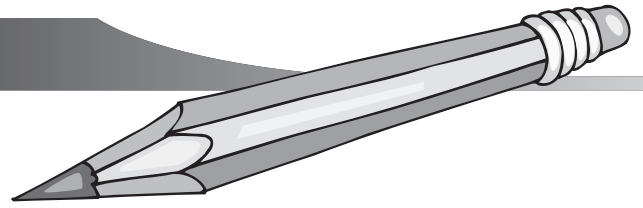
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## A Word from the Author



### Dear Teacher,

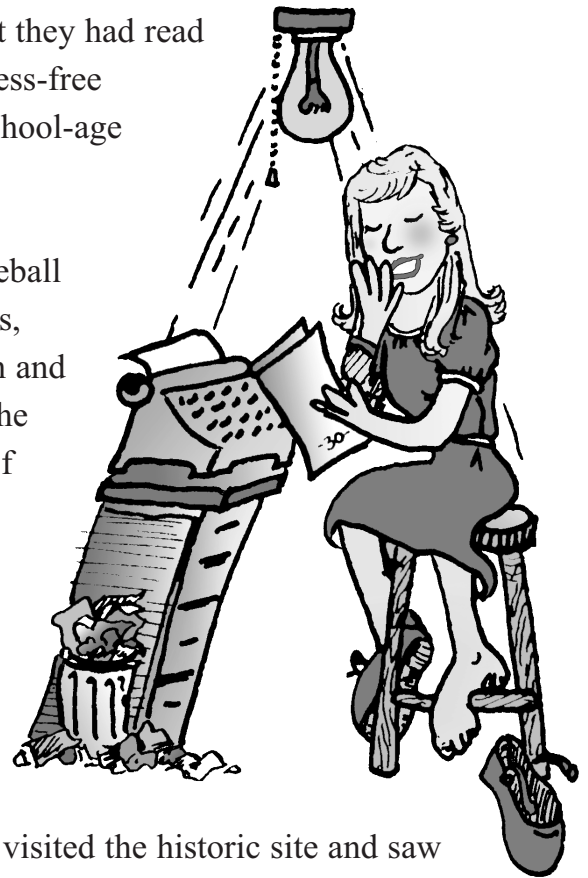
In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic sites that still existed—primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children than to visit a fascinating historic site!

Baseball is the All-American game! And taking a baseball road trip is a great way to learn about its history, traditions, colorful characters, and great players. From Cooperstown and the National Baseball Hall of Fame, to Louisville where the Louisville Slugger baseball bat is made, to the nostalgia of old baseball stadiums like Fenway Park, to South Williamsport where the stars of tomorrow revel in Little League play, *The Baffling Baseball Mystery* takes readers on a journey that is fun, interesting, intriguing—and even full of ghosts!

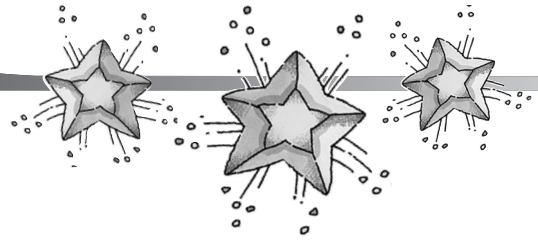
I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the historic site and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? Everything! Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about. And sometimes, a carefree vacation trip might be the spark that leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, or a people.

As Slugger McCoy would say, baseball is a great game—and a lot like life! I hope *The Baffling Baseball Mystery* makes you want to experience the game—from the stands, from the field, and from the places that have contributed to the greatness of this uniquely American pastime!

*Carole Marsh*



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# Page-by-Page Guide

<i>Page #</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<u><i>EXPLORE!</i></u>
11	Baseball Terms	In baseball, a <i>dugout</i> is a low shelter at the side of a baseball field where a team's coaches and players who are not taking part can sit and watch the game. Traditionally, the home team sits in the dugout to the right of the diamond, and the visitors team sits in the dugout to the left.
11	Baseball Positions	A <i>shortstop</i> (SS) is a fielder positioned in the infield between second and third base. Who are some famous shortstops?
11	Geography	<i>The Baseball Mystery</i> begins in Atlanta, the capital of Georgia. Located in the northern third of the state, Atlanta has a humid subtropical climate, which means it has hot, humid summers and cool winters. Can you find Atlanta on a map?
11	Baseball Teams	The Atlanta Braves are a professional baseball team located in Atlanta, Georgia. The team is one of two remaining charter franchises in Major League Baseball's National League. The Braves were founded in Boston in 1871 where they were called the Boston Red Stockings. The team moved to Milwaukee in 1953 and then to Atlanta in 1966. They have played in Turner Field since 1997.
12	Baseball Terms	A <i>fastball</i> is a baseball pitch thrown at or near a pitcher's maximum speed. It is the most common type of pitch in baseball.
16	Baseball Teams	Slugger played on a <i>minor league</i> baseball team when he was young. A minor league team competes on a lower level than a major league team. It usually is a team where a player gets experience before moving up to a major league team.
16	Baseball Terms	A <i>ground ball</i> , or grounder, is a ball that once hit by the batter rolls or bounces along the ground.
18	Figure of Speech	Grant settled into his stance. What does that mean? Demonstrate how you would settle into a stance to hit a ball.
18	Vocabulary	Grant's eyes were glued to the white <i>sphere</i> coming right at him. What is a sphere? What does this sentence mean?

## Page-by-Page Guide

- |    |                     |   |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 18 | Baseball Rules      | Grant squarely hit the bases as he rounded the diamond. Bases are the four stations a player must reach in order to score a run—first base, second base, third base, and home plate.  |
| 18 | Baseball Terms      | A baseball field is referred to as a <i>diamond</i> because the infield is shaped like one.   |
| 21 | Baseball Traditions | The World Series is a professional championship for Major League Baseball that is played at the end of the season between the champions of the American League and the National League. It was first played in 1903.  |
| 21 | Baseball Traditions | There are two major leagues in American professional baseball that make up Major League Baseball—the National League and the American League. The National League was founded in 1876. There are currently 16 teams in this league. The American League was founded in 1901 and currently has 14 teams. |
| 22 | Baseball Teams      | The Pittsburgh Pirates are a professional baseball team located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The team is a member of the National League. Established in 1882, the Pirates played in the very first World Series in 1903, but lost to the Boston Red Sox.   |
| 22 | Geography           | Puerto Rico is an unincorporated territory of the United States. It is located in the northeastern Caribbean. Can you find Puerto Rico on a map?  |
| 23 | Baseball Teams      | The Boston Red Sox are a professional baseball team located in Boston, Massachusetts. The team is a member of the American League. Established in 1901, the Red Sox won the first World Series in 1903. The ball club's home ballpark has been Fenway Park since 1912.                                  |
| 25 | Vocabulary          | When something is <i>authentic</i> , it is genuine, or real.  |
| 27 | Food                | Grant ate a chili dog at the baseball game. What are some other typical foods you might have at a baseball game?  |
| 28 | Baseball Traditions | Home run derby refers to a game that is played to see who can hit the most home runs.   |
| 28 | Baseball Terms      | What is a <i>batting cage</i> ? Have you ever practiced hitting a ball in a batting cage?   |

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 28      Baseball  
Terms      In baseball, a *curve ball* is a type of pitch that a pitcher throws so that the ball has forward spin, causing it to dive in a downward path as it approaches the plate.
- 29      Baseball  
Traditions      Often, players will sign their names to baseballs and other items for fans before and after a game. Some of these items can become valuable. Do you have any autographed baseballs?
- 31      Geography      Cooperstown is located in east central New York near the base of the Adirondack Mountains. Can you find the town on a map?
- 31      Vocabulary      Christina had a touch of *sarcasm* in her voice when she replied to Grant. What is sarcasm? Say Christina’s line aloud with sarcasm in your voice.
- 34      Vocabulary      Christina thought Slugger looked *dejected*. What does that mean?
- 37      Movies      *The Bad News Bears* is a comedy movie about baseball made in 1976. A remake was released in 2005.
- 38      Players      Roy Halladay is a Philadelphia Phillies pitcher who made MLB history on May 29, 2010, when he pitched the 20th perfect game in baseball history. In a perfect game, the same pitcher stays in the entire game, and not one batter from the opposing team reaches first base.
- 39      Players      Derek Jeter is a New York Yankees shortstop known for his on-field leadership qualities and his hitting and fielding abilities.
- 41      Figure of  
Speech      Mimi refers to the fellow Papa sold his baseball cards to as “a real character.” What does she mean by that?
- 41      Baseball  
Teams      The New York Yankees are a professional baseball team located in the Bronx, New York. The team is a member of the American League. The team was founded in 1901 as the Orioles in Baltimore, Maryland. They moved to New York in 1903 and became the Yankees in 1913. The Yankees have a long history of winning World Series and American League championships. The Yankees played in the historic Yankee Stadium from 1923–2008. Today, they play in a new stadium also called Yankee Stadium.

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 41      Geography      Located in northeastern New York, the Adirondack Mountains are part of the Appalachian Mountains. The Adirondacks consist primarily of metamorphic rocks surrounding a core of intrusive igneous rocks. They are heavily forested with spruce, pine and broad-leafed trees. Can you find the Adirondacks on a map?
- 42      Vocabulary      The *Mystery Girl* was sitting on the airport *tarmac*. A tarmac refers to a runway or other area surfaced with a material consisting of crushed rock mixed with tar.
- 45      History      The Great Depression refers to the financial and industrial slump that occurred in 1929 and lasted until the United States' entry into World War II.
- 49      History      What is a timeline? How do you draw one?
- 49      Baseball Rules      In the first baseball games, pitchers threw underhanded. What does that mean? Can you throw underhanded?
- 51      Players      Nicknamed "The Flying Dutchman," Honus Wagner was a shortstop who played mostly for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Many baseball historians consider him to be the greatest shortstop ever.
- 51      Players      An aggressive baseball player with a surly manner, Ty Cobb, known as "The Georgia Peach," is widely credited with setting 90 MLB records during his career. He received the most votes of any player in the first Baseball Hall of Fame ballot in 1936.
- 51      Players      Cy Young pitched for 5 different teams in his career and established numerous pitching records that still stand, including 511 wins in his career. In 1956, the first annual Cy Young Award was created to honor a season's best pitcher.
- 52      Baseball Statistics      Commonly referred to as RBIs, "Runs Batted In" is a statistic used in baseball to credit a batter when the outcome of his or her at-bat results in a run being scored.
- 52      Baseball Statistics      Earned Run Average (ERA) refers to the mean, or average, number of earned runs given up by a pitcher per nine innings pitched. The statistic is used to determine a pitcher's effectiveness. The lower the average, the better job the pitcher is doing.



## Page-by-Page Guide

- 52      Baseball  
Terms      In baseball, a *strikeout* occurs when a batter receives three strikes during his/her time up at bat. Strikeouts are recorded for both batters and pitchers.
- 56      Baseball  
Terms      An *extra base hit* is when a batter hits the ball and advances past first base without the benefit of a fielder either committing an error or opting to make a throw to retire another base runner. Doubles, triples, and home runs are all extra base hits.
- 57      Baseball  
Teams      The Milwaukee Braves were a professional baseball team located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They won the World Series in 1957. In 1966, they moved to Atlanta to become the Atlanta Braves. In 1969, Milwaukee became the home of the Milwaukee Brewers. The team is a member of the National League.
- 59      Vocabulary      *Discrimination* is the treating of some people better than others without any fair or proper reason.
- 60      Baseball  
Teams      The Brooklyn Dodgers were a professional baseball team located in Brooklyn, New York. The team was originally called the “Brooklyn Trolley Dodgers” because of the streetcar tracks that bordered two sides of the field where they played in the late 1800s. The Dodgers moved to Los Angeles in 1958.
- 61      Baseball  
Teams      The Chicago Cubs are one of two professional baseball teams in Chicago, Illinois. Established in 1870, the National League team has played at Wrigley Field since 1916. The Cubs, who last won a World Series in 1908, are known as “The Lovable Losers.”
- 66      Vocabulary      A *scandal* is something that offends accepted moral standards or disgraces those associated with it.
- 67      Baseball  
Teams      The Chicago White Sox are one of two professional baseball teams located in Chicago, Illinois. Established in 1900, the team was originally called the Chicago White Stockings. For 80 years, the American League team played in historic Comiskey Park. Today, it plays in U.S. Cellular Field, nicknamed “The Cell” by fans.



## Page-by-Page Guide

- 67      Baseball Teams      The Cincinnati Reds are a professional baseball team located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Established in 1882, the American League team was originally called the Cincinnati Red Stockings. From 1970 – 2003, the Reds played in Riverfront Stadium on the Mississippi River. Today, they play next door in the Great American Ball Park.
- 68      Movies      The 1989 movie *Field of Dreams* is a fantasy drama based on the novel *Shoeless Joe* by W. P. Kinsella. The baseball field set built on a farm in Dyersville, Iowa, has become a tourist attraction.
- 71      Baseball Rules      A major league baseball season consists of 162 games played over 178 to 183 days. It typically runs from early April to late September and is followed by postseason play in October.
- 72      History      Babe Ruth was in the first group of five men inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1936. The other four were Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, and Walter Johnson.
- 77      Geography      South Williamsport is located in northeast Pennsylvania along the West Branch Susquehanna River and is adjacent to parts of the Appalachian Mountains and the Allegheny Plateau. Can you find South Williamsport on a map?
- 77      Vocabulary      Teams of boys *milled* around. This means they moved about in a disorderly mass.
- 79      Baseball Terms      *Home plate* is the place where a baseball batter stands. A base runner must touch home plate in order to score a run.
- 83      Vocabulary      Christina *whiffed* the ball three times. What does this mean?
- 85      Movies      *A League of Their Own* is a fictionalized story about the real-life All American Girls Professional Baseball League.
- 86      Emotions      Christina was feeling paranoid. This means she was extremely fearful and suspicious. Have you ever felt paranoid? Why?
- 87      Geography      Louisville, the largest city in Kentucky, is located on the south banks of the Ohio River across from the state of Indiana. It is in the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky where the land is generally rolling hills and the soil is very fertile. Its climate is humid subtropical, meaning it has hot, humid summers and mild to cool winters. Can you find Louisville on a map?

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 88      Players      Ted Williams played his entire 21-year career as the left fielder of the Boston Red Sox. Because of his great hitting ability, he was nicknamed “The Greatest Hitter Who Ever Lived.”
- 90      Players      Nicknamed “Joltin’ Joe” and the “Yankee Clipper,” Joe DiMaggio was a New York Yankees star from 1936-51. He was renowned for his outstanding batting ability and outfield play.
- 90      Players      Ken Griffey, Jr., who played center field for several different teams, was one of the best home run hitters and defensive players in baseball history. He won 10 Gold Glove awards and appeared in 13 All-Star games.
- 91      Vocabulary      Demonstrate how you would *sidestep* around something.
- 93      Vocabulary      A *logo* is a symbol or motto that identifies something. What are some famous logos?
- 94      Players      First baseman Albert Pujols is a current baseball player who has one of the best batting averages in baseball. ESPN.com selected him as the Most Valuable Player of the decade from 2000-2009.
- 94      Players      In 1956, Mickey Mantle, who played his entire 18-year career with the New York Yankees, led the American League in batting average, home runs, and runs batted in. Mantle is regarded as the greatest switch hitter of all time, meaning he could bat equally well right-handed or left-handed.
- 95      Baseball Traditions      The Major League All-Star Game is an annual baseball game between players from the American and National leagues. It takes place in early July and marks the symbolic halfway point in the MLB season. Fans, players, coaches, and managers vote to select the players who participate.
- 101      Geography      Boston, the capital of Massachusetts, is one of the oldest cities in the United States. It is a very compact city with a dense population and the only capital city in the contiguous United States with an ocean coastline. Boston sits 19 feet above sea level. Boston Harbor separates East Boston from Boston. Can you find Boston on a map?

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 107      Geography      Located in central Maryland on the Patapsco River near where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore is the largest U.S. seaport in the Mid-Atlantic. The city sits on the fall line between the Piedmont Plateau and the Atlantic Coastal Plain, which divides Baltimore into “lower city” and “upper city.” The elevation of the town ranges from sea level to 480 feet. Can you find Baltimore on a map?
- 113      Geography      Located at the mouth of the Hudson River on one of the world’s largest natural harbors, New York City is the most populous city in the United States. New York City consists of five boroughs that were consolidated in 1898: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island. Can you find New York City on a map?
- 114      Emotions      Grant was worried about Christina’s feelings. Why? Have you ever been concerned about someone’s feelings who was not able to do what you were doing? How did you act toward that person?
- 115      Movies      *The Natural* is a 1984 film adaptation of a novel by the same name by Bernard Malamud. It’s about a baseball player named Roy Hobbs who had great natural baseball talent.
- 118      Vocabulary      Babe Ruth’s best years *coincided* with the Yankees’ winning history. Explain what the word coincided means.
- 119      Players      Nicknamed “Mr. October,” Reggie Jackson was particularly known for his clutch hitting—a baseball player with a knack for coming up with a game-deciding hit—in postseason play with the New York Yankees.
- 119      Players      Whitey Ford, who played his entire 18-year career with the New York Yankees, was the team’s No. 1 pitcher. He was nicknamed the “Chairman of the Board” for his ability to stay calm, cool, and collected in high-pressure situations.
- 119      Players      Nicknamed “The Iron Horse,” first baseman Lou Gehrig played his entire 17-year career with the New York Yankees. He holds the record for most career grand slams—home runs hit with all three bases occupied by runners— and was voted the greatest first baseman of all time by the Baseball Writers’ Association in 1969.

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 123 History World War II (1939-45) was a war in which an alliance including the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and the United States defeated the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan).
- 128 Emotions Why is Christina so excited? What do you think it would be like to play ball at a huge stadium like Yankee Stadium?
- 130 Baseball Terms The *leadoff hitter* is the batter who bats first in the lineup.
- 130 Baseball Terms The most common type of base hit, a *single*, occurs when a batter safely reaches first base by hitting a fair ball and getting to first base before a fielder can put him/her out.
- 130 Baseball Terms A *base hit* is credited to a batter when the batter can advance safely to first base without aid of an error committed by the team on the field.
- 130 Baseball Terms A *sacrifice fly* is when a batter hits a ball to the outfield that is caught but allows a runner on base to score a run. There must be less than two outs for this play to work.
- 141 Vocabulary What does *iconic* mean? What does Papa mean when he says, “Two coasts, two iconic baseball stadiums!”

## Discussion Questions

1. In the very first chapter of the book, Christina and Slugger McCoy talk about baseball. They have differing views about the game. Discuss reasons why Christina does not care for the game and why Slugger loves it. How does Christina feel about baseball by the end of the book? What do you think made her change her mind?
2. Papa, Mimi, and the kids go to Cooperstown where the National Baseball Hall of Fame is located. Why is this an important place for baseball fans? Discuss some of the things you learned about the game of baseball as the kids visited Cooperstown.
3. What is discrimination? Discuss discrimination as it applies to the Negro American League and the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Why were those leagues created? What is different about the issue of discrimination in baseball today?
4. At the Little League World Series, the kids get a chance to play ball with some of the Little Leaguers. What changes did you see in Christina as she began to practice catching, throwing, and batting?
5. Throughout the book, Mimi and/or Slugger McCoy say that life is like baseball. What do they mean by that? Find all the places in the book where someone compares life to baseball.
6. List all the clues the kids found. At any point, did you think you knew the solution to the mystery? If so, when? Was it a good mystery? Why or why not?

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Take Me Out to the Ball Game**

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game" is a famous song baseball fans sing during the 7th inning stretch. Jack Norworth wrote the song in 1908 on a scrap of paper as he rode a New York City subway train. Norworth, who had never been to a baseball game, was inspired by a sign on the train that said, "Baseball Today – Polo Grounds." He gave the lyrics to Albert Von Tilzer, who composed the music. The song became an instant hit.

There are several verses to the song, but this is the one sung at ball games today:

"Take me out to the ball game,  
Take me out with the crowd.  
Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack,  
I don't care if I never get back.  
Let me root, root, root for the home team.  
If they don't win it's a shame.  
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,  
At the old ball game."

## ***Geography: Find It!***

1. On a map of the United States, find Atlanta, Georgia, and mark it. Now, using your book, find all the cities and states that Papa, Mimi, and the kids traveled to and mark those places. Use a highlighter to trace their journey from one place to another. At the end of the book, Papa said they would go to Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California. Include that in their journey.
2. Find your location on the same map in Question #1. Plan your own baseball trip. Use a different colored highlighter to trace your journey. How many miles will you have to travel? How will you travel to each location?
3. Use whatever resources you have to find the longitude and latitude of each of the locations the kids visited. What is the elevation of each location?
4. Using the Internet and Google Earth, find each of the towns Mimi, Papa, and the kids visited. Zoom in on the map and see if you can locate the exact location they visited (like the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, etc.).
5. Pick one town the kids visited. Write a report on the geographical features of that town. Use the Internet and any books you have to find information. Mountains, valleys, rivers, and oceans are all things you should consider in your report.

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Major League Baseball**

##### National League Teams

Arizona Diamondbacks  
Atlanta Braves  
Chicago Cubs  
Cincinnati Reds  
Colorado Rockies  
Florida Marlins  
Houston Astros  
Los Angeles Dodgers  
Milwaukee Brewers  
New York Mets  
Philadelphia Phillies  
Pittsburgh Pirates  
San Francisco Giants  
San Diego Padres  
St. Louis Cardinals  
Washington Nationals

##### American League Teams

Baltimore Orioles  
Boston Red Sox  
Chicago White Sox  
Cleveland Indians  
Detroit Tigers  
Kansas City Royals  
Los Angeles Angels  
Minnesota Twins  
New York Yankees  
Oakland Athletics  
Seattle Mariners  
Tampa Bay Rays  
Texas Rangers  
Toronto Blue Jays



## Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. Papa bought 6 tickets to the Braves game. Two adult tickets cost \$15.95 each. Four kids' tickets cost \$12.95 each. How much money did the tickets cost? Parking was \$8.00. Papa had \$100. How much change did he get back?
2. Mimi bought lunch for everyone at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. She ordered 4 hamburgers for \$4.25 each, 2 hot dogs for \$3.25, 6 soft drinks for \$1.50 each, 2 side salads for \$1.90 each, 5 orders of French fries for \$2.70 each, and 4 chocolate milkshakes for \$2.95 each. How much did Mimi owe the cashier?
3. Christina had a bag of peanuts with 48 peanuts. She divided the peanuts evenly between herself, Grant, Jennifer, and Roberto. How many peanuts each did they get?
4. Roberto pitched 8 games during his Little League season. He struck out 4 batters in game 1, 3 batters in game 2, 6 batters in game 3, 10 batters in game 4, 6 batters in game 5, 2 batters in game 6, 7 batters in game 7, and 2 batters in game 8. How many total strikeouts did he have? What was his average number of strikeouts per game?
5. Papa bought Christina, Grant, Jennifer, and Roberto a Louisville Slugger Bat for \$45 each. Then, the kids took individual All-Star baseball card photos for \$15 each. How much did Papa spend on each of the kids? What was his total bill?

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Baseball by the Numbers**

- The first professional baseball team was the Cincinnati Red Stockings in 1869.
- The oldest Major League Baseball stadium currently in use is Boston's Fenway Park built in 1912.
- The first World Series was played in 1903. The Boston Americans (now the Red Sox) beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-3.
- To date (2011), the team with the most World Series wins is the New York Yankees (27), followed by the St. Louis Cardinals (11), and the Boston Red Sox (7).
- The National League currently has 16 teams.
- The American League currently has 14 teams.
- The winningest pitcher on record is Cy Young with 511 wins. Second is Walter Johnson with 417 wins.
- To date (2011), the home run record holder is Barry Bonds (762 home runs), followed by Hank Aaron (755), and Babe Ruth (714).



## ***English: Write It!***

1. Write a book report on *The Baffling Baseball Mystery* and include the following information. What is the setting(s)? Who are the main characters? What is the plot? What is the climax of the story? Is there a theme or a big idea that the author is trying to get across? What do you think it might be? What is your favorite scene? Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. Who is your favorite character in the book? Write a paragraph describing that character (physical description and character traits). What are his/her strengths and weaknesses? How is the character important to the plot of the story?
3. Pretend you are taking your own baseball road trip. Pick one of the locations in the story. Write a story about an adventure you have in that location.
4. Pretend you are a reporter. Write a news story about Christina chasing down the baseball memorabilia thief at Yankee Stadium. Be sure to include journalism's Five W's (Who, What, When, Where, and Why – and sometimes How) when writing your article. Don't forget to include an attention-getting headline!
5. Pick your favorite baseball team. Write a report about the team. Include topics like history, records, outstanding players, and why you like this team. Draw the team's logo and include it with your report.

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Elements of a Story**

Every story has to have several essential elements:

Setting – where and when the story takes place

Characters – the people in the story

Exposition – background information on characters and setting explained at the beginning of the story

Plot – all the major events and action in the story

Conflict – the problem faced by the characters

Climax – when the conflict of the plot is resolved

Resolution – the end of the story

Theme – a general idea or “universal truth” that is derived from the story

# Vocabulary: Use It!

Use the clues to unscramble the words taken from the mystery book. Use these words and their definitions to increase your vocabulary!

1. A journey  
GGALIRPMIE    I    \_\_\_\_\_    A    \_\_\_\_\_
2. A long passage in a building, often with doors to rooms opening into it  
RDRRIOOC    O    \_\_\_\_\_    D    \_\_\_\_\_
3. Lying on one's back with the face upward  
PUSEIN    \_\_\_\_\_    N    \_\_\_\_\_
4. Angry  
TERIA    \_\_\_\_\_    E    \_\_\_\_\_
5. Deeply involved in a particular interest; or covered completely with water  
SMIDEMRE    M    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    D    \_\_\_\_\_
6. A close reproduction, or copy  
PCAERIL    E    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_
7. To destroy a large part of something  
MEDECATI    D    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    T    \_\_\_\_\_
8. A wrong or unsuitable name  
OSIREMMN    \_\_\_\_\_    S    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    R    \_\_\_\_\_
9. To take off (past tense)  
ODEFFD    \_\_\_\_\_    F    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_
10. Things valued or collected for their relation to a particular field of interest  
BAMMAEIILRO  
\_\_\_\_\_    M    \_\_\_\_\_    R    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

## Bonus Info!

### Baseball Facts

- Inning – A turn at bat for each team is called an inning.
- Umpire – Umpires referee baseball games. They decide all close calls, and their word is final.
- Uniform Numbers – The New York Yankees was the first team to put numbers on their uniform backs. The first numbers were assigned by batting order. Today, the player's number has nothing to do with batting order.
- Retired Numbers – A team will sometimes retire a number, meaning no one on that team can wear that number again.
- Pennant – The team that represents the National League or the American League in the World Series is said to have won "the pennant."
- World Series – The World Series is played as a best-of-seven series. This means the first team to win 4 games wins the Series, and there can't be more than 7 games.

## Art: Create It!

1. Draw a picture of your favorite character in the mystery! If you want, you can draw them in your favorite scene in the story.
2. Make a short comic book about Christina and Grant's baseball road trip. Pick three of your favorite scenes from the book to illustrate, including scenery, characters, and dialogue.
3. The kids had their very own All-Star baseball card made at the Louisville Slugger Factory. You can make your own baseball card, too! Look at any baseball cards you may have, or search the Internet for baseball cards to guide your drawing. Draw a picture of yourself wearing an All-Star jersey on 8.5" x 11" paper. Now, make a list of your statistics! This would include your name and any other things you might want to tell about yourself (names of parents and siblings, birthday, school, favorite color, etc.). Once you have the statistics you want, take another piece of paper and list them all! Paste the drawing of yourself on one side of the card and your "stats" on the other side!
4. Draw your favorite scene from *The Baffling Baseball Mystery*. Discuss that scene in front of the class and explain why that was your favorite scene. (A variation of this is to go through the book and select one scene for each person in the class to draw. When they are finished with the drawings, let the students tell the story of *The Baffling Baseball Mystery* by discussing the drawings, or "scenes" in order.)

### **Bonus Info!** **Rules of the Game**

In the game of baseball, a batter hits the ball, then tries to make it to first base or farther without getting called out. The batter who runs around all the bases scores a run. The team with the most runs at the end of the game wins!

Teams take turns at bat. A team keeps batting until it makes three outs. Then that team pitches to the other team until they make three outs. The most common ways to make an out are:

- Strikeout – If a batter swings and misses, or doesn't swing at a good pitch, it's a strike. Three strikes and the batter is out.
- Fly out – If a fielder catches a batted ball before it hits the ground, the batter is out.
- Ground out – If a fielder throws the ball to first base before the batter gets there, the batter is out.
- Tag out – If a runner is not touching a base and is tagged with the ball, the runner is out.

After each team has had nine turns at bat (or fewer turns in Little League), the game is over.

## **Bonus Info!**

### **Defensive Positions**

If a team is not batting, it is fielding, or playing defense. The job of the nine players on the field is to field the ball and put the batters out.

- Pitcher – Throws the ball to the batter to start the action on the field. Pitchers also can field ground balls to help out the infielders.
- Catcher – Crouches behind home plate to catch any pitches that the batter doesn't hit. If a runner tries to steal a base, the catcher tries to throw the runner out.
- Infielders – Play first base, second base, shortstop, and third base. They play close to the bases and the batter. They field ground balls and try to throw out the batter.
- Outfielders – Play right field, center field, and left field. They play far away from the bases and batter. Mainly, they try to catch fly balls and throw the ball back to the infielders.

### **Wrigley Field Chicago-Style Grill Cart Hot Dog**

Use all-beef hot dogs and poppy seed buns! Grill the hot dogs until well browned. Transfer the hot dogs to buns and top with the Wrigley-style toppings of your choice: grilled sliced onions, diced tomatoes, mild banana peppers, sweet relish, catsup, mustard, and celery salt.

### **Hot Dog Slaw**

½ med. head of cabbage, grated  
2 tbsp. onion, grated  
2 tbsp. sweet pickle relish  
Mayonnaise & mustard to taste  
½ tsp. black pepper  
1 tsp. sugar  
2 tsp. vinegar (optional)

Mix ingredients well and chill.

### **Coney Island Chili Dogs**

1 lb. lean ground beef  
1 (12-ounce) jar chili sauce  
1 (1.48-ounce) packet chili seasoning  
¼ cup water  
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1 tbs. yellow mustard  
½ tsp. onion powder

In a pot over medium heat, brown the ground beef, stirring constantly to break up the clumps. Add the rest of the ingredients. Bring to a boil, lower the heat, and simmer for 30 minutes. Place hot dogs in buns and top with chili. Top off with cheddar cheese and chopped white onion if desired!

### ***Make Some Baseball Posters***

There are 16 National League teams and 14 American League teams in Major League Baseball. Depending on how many students you have, assign each student one team to research, or divide the class into groups. Each group can take on several teams. Gather art supplies and pieces of poster board for this art project.

#### Step One:

Use books and the Internet to find information on each team in the two leagues. For each team, find the team logo, colors, cap insignia, and current uniform. Other information should include the team's nicknames, stadium name, best-known players (historical and current), and World Series championships (if any).

#### Step Two:

Use construction paper, paint, crayons, and other materials, to make a poster for each team. Make a pennant from construction paper, or felt, and attach it to the poster. Draw the team's logo and paste it on. Find a photo of the team's stadium and paste it on. Attach old baseball game ticket stubs or an old program. Write or draw the rest of the information directly onto the poster when you need to, but in general, make each poster display as creative and as chock full of information as possible.

#### Step Three:

Once all the posters are completed, make a presentation to the class about each of the teams. As each team is presented, a student helper can stick a pushpin in the correct team location on a big map of the United States!

## Activities

# The Baffling Baseball Mystery Word Search

Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!

N	S	R	E	Q	C	N	H	S	I	S	L	A	D	B
W	H	E	Y	U	S	E	E	T	T	W	I	L	A	P
O	O	H	F	Q	G	V	K	R	U	L	D	S	V	R
T	R	C	K	E	A	A	I	H	I	R	E	B	E	Y
S	T	T	N	R	N	K	E	B	O	B	E	G	A	P
R	S	I	B	U	E	W	A	L	A	T	G	B	E	T
E	T	P	C	O	R	R	A	L	E	U	D	A	A	K
P	O	P	U	B	O	E	L	Y	L	L	N	O	Y	B
O	P	T	I	M	X	C	M	S	P	U	T	L	G	B
O	V	Z	E	B	A	D	E	O	T	A	O	T	O	S
C	Z	M	X	R	B	N	C	S	H	K	R	Y	I	X
X	O	S	D	E	R	N	O	T	S	O	B	K	F	L
W	O	S	L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	H	P	H	S
U	H	U	Y	A	N	K	E	E	S	G	H	O	S	T
W	O	R	L	D	S	E	R	I	E	S	T	Z	Y	I

### WORD BANK

BABE RUTH  
BASEBALL  
BASEBALL CARDS  
BAT  
BRAVES

BOSTON RED SOX  
COOPERSTOWN  
FENWAY PARK  
GHOST  
HOME RUN

HOT DOGS  
LITTLE LEAGUE  
MEMORABILIA  
PEANUTS  
PITCHER

SHORTSTOP  
SLUGGER  
STRIKEOUT  
WORLD SERIES  
YANKEES

# Chapters 1-4 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. batting average
2. gingerly
3. immersed
4. misnomer

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. What baseball position does Grant play?
6. Who do Christina, Jennifer, Mimi, and Papa meet sitting in the stands at Turner Field?
7. What did someone try to steal at the Braves Museum?
8. What does Christina find on the ground in the tunnel at Turner Field?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Slugger McCoy always wanted to play baseball in the “Big Show.”
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Grant and Christina noticed a man carrying a blue suitcase watching them from the stands at Turner Field.



# Chapters 5-8 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. doffed
2. memorabilia
3. pilgrimage

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. What does Papa tell the kids he sold to a guy named Jack LaForge?
5. Where does Mimi say people think the game of baseball was invented?
6. What person does legend say invented baseball?
7. What was the first professional baseball team?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_\_\_ The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is located in New York City.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Murderer's Row was the nickname of the five players who made up the 1927 lineup of the New York Yankees.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Roberto liked to memorize baseball statistics.

# Chapters 9-12 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. discrimination
2. irate
3. scandal

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. Who was the first African American baseball player to play in the major leagues?
5. What professional baseball league was formed during World War II?
6. Who does the Curse of the Bambino refer to?
7. What was going on in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, when Papa, Mimi, and the kids arrived?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Many people think the ghost of Babe Ruth still roams Fenway Park.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Shoeless Joe Jackson was a Chicago White Sox baseball player accused of taking a bribe during the 1919 World Series.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Christina found a clue in an old spiral notebook at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

# Chapters 13-16 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. decimate
2. logo
3. replica
4. whiffed

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. What does Jennifer teach Christina to do?
6. What is made at the Louisville Slugger Factory?
7. Who do the kids meet at the batting cages at the Louisville Slugger Factory?
8. What did Christina find on the mannequin of Babe Ruth?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

9. \_\_\_\_ Papa told the kids they could pick out a new baseball hat at the Louisville Slugger Factory.
10. \_\_\_\_ Christina dreamed that she was standing in a cornfield with Shoeless Joe Jackson.

# Chapters 17-20 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what this word means? Write the definition in the space provided.*

1. coincided
2. corridor
3. demolished
4. supine

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. What is the oldest baseball stadium in America?
6. What did the kids see ambling along the shadowy corridors of Fenway Park?
7. Where did the kids sneak off to in Baltimore?
8. What do the kids see Jack LaForge carrying at the Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Roberto and Jennifer's cousin Antonio asked the kids if they wanted to go to a movie in New York City.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The nickname for the old Yankee Stadium was "The House that Babe Ruth Built."

# Chapters 21-24 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. iconic
2. leadoff hitter

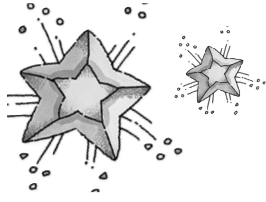
*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

3. What did Dottie tell Christina she used to do?
4. What could Christina not believe she was doing at Yankee Stadium?
5. What did Christina realize was missing when she went to get her chewing gum?
6. Who did Grant hit in the head with the baseball?

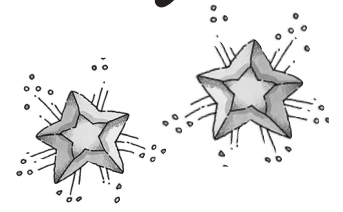
*Write T for True and F for False.*

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Dottie encouraged Christina to play baseball with the rest of the kids in Yankee Stadium.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The ghost of Babe Ruth smiled at Christina as she dashed by, chasing the thief.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The thief had stolen the Babe Ruth rookie card from Jack LaForge.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Christina said she learned that baseball is a lot like life.

# The Baffling Baseball Mystery



## Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Using the word bank, fill in the correct vocabulary word in the sentences below.*

### WORD BANK

BATTING AVERAGE  
IRATE

CORRIDOR  
MEMORABILIA

DEMOLISHED  
MISNOMER

DECIMATED  
REPLICA

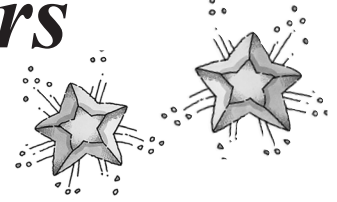
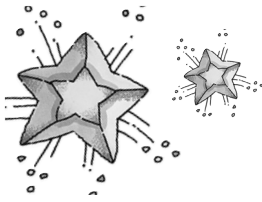
DOFFED  
SUPINE

1. Christina hit the ball with the bat so hard that Roberto yelled out that she \_\_\_\_\_ it!
2. Mimi said calling a Baby Ruth candy bar a Babe Ruth candy bar was a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Grant lay in a \_\_\_\_\_ position on the bed in the bedroom where Babe Ruth was born.
4. Jennifer told them that Roberto Clemente led the National League in \_\_\_\_\_ for four different seasons.
5. Mimi said she was sad when the owners \_\_\_\_\_ the old Yankee Stadium.
6. The bat leaning against the outside wall of the museum was an exact \_\_\_\_\_ of Babe Ruth's 34-inch Louisville Slugger.
7. Papa said that Jack LaForge's house was filled with baseball \_\_\_\_\_.
8. After she rattled off some statistics, Jennifer \_\_\_\_\_ her hat and bowed.
9. The kids spotted a baseball player in an old-style uniform ambling along the \_\_\_\_\_ at Fenway Park.
10. Christina was \_\_\_\_\_ that African Americans were not allowed to play in the major leagues and had to form their own baseball league.

# *The Baffling Baseball Mystery*

## *Matching Characters*

### *End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

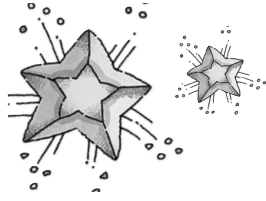
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Match the mystery characters with their descriptions.*

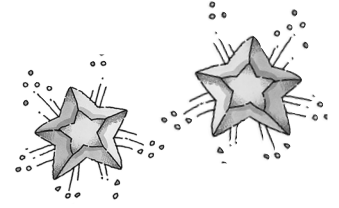
- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Papa          | A. Played baseball for the Racine Belles                     |
| _____ 2. Mimi          | B. Did not care much for baseball                            |
| _____ 3. Christina     | C. Was nicknamed “The Bambino”                               |
| _____ 4. Grant         | D. Liked to collect baseball memorabilia                     |
| _____ 5. Jennifer      | E. Whacked a ball to the outfield that knocked out the thief |
| _____ 6. Roberto       | F. Was researching for a book about baseball                 |
| _____ 7. Slugger McCoy | G. Loved to memorize baseball statistics                     |
| _____ 8. Jack LaForge  | H. Always wanted to play baseball in the “Big Show”          |
| _____ 9. Dottie        | I. Was named for a famous baseball player from Puerto Rico   |
| _____ 10. Babe Ruth    | J. Saw Hank Aaron break Babe Ruth’s home run record in 1974  |



# *The Baffling Baseball Mystery*



## *Fill-in-the-Blank End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Fill in the blanks to complete the following:*

1. From the stands at Turner Field, Papa, Mimi, Christina, and Jennifer watched Grant and Roberto do what?

P \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_

2. Mimi said he was one of the greatest baseball players ever.

\_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_

3. On the Mystery Girl, the kids traded these.

\_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

4. Papa said this was the best place to go to honor the game of baseball.

\_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

5. This baseball player broke Babe Ruth's home run record in 1974.

H \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

6. Brianna told the kids there were a lot of legends, curses, and scandals in baseball, including this one.

C \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_

7. This was taking place at the Little League baseball fields in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

W \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_

8. Where did the kids see the ghost of Babe Ruth?

\_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_

9. A baseball player who consistently hits for power is called this.

\_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_

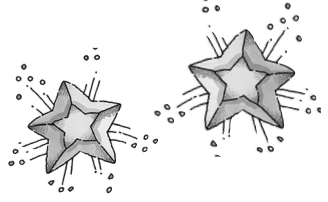
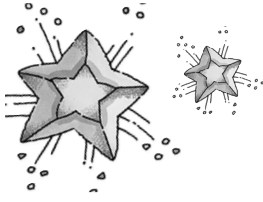
10. Christina and the kids played two innings of baseball at this ballpark.

\_\_\_\_\_ K \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_

# *The Baffling Baseball Mystery*

## *True or False*

### *End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write T for True and F for False.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Slugger McCoy tells Christina that he used to play baseball for the Atlanta Braves.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Christina thinks finding the Babe Ruth baseball card is a sign of good luck since they are starting a baseball road trip.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mimi tells the kids that there are people who steal baseball memorabilia and sell it to unethical collectors for lots of money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Papa, Mimi, and the kids travel to Fenway Park to visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Many people believe the Curse of the Bambino began when the New York Yankees sold Babe Ruth to the Boston Red Sox in 1919.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The kids learn more about the Negro American League when they watch the movie *A League of their Own*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The Louisville Slugger is the official baseball of Major League Baseball.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The “Lone Red Seat” is the seat hit when Boston Red Sox player Ted Williams hit the longest home run ever at Fenway Park.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Christina figures out that the man with the black gym bag has been stealing baseball memorabilia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The Babe Ruth Rookie card belongs to Slugger McCoy and is worth a half million dollars.

# Answer Key

## *Page 15, Mathematics: Calculate It!*

1. \$83.70, \$8.30 change; 2. \$61.60;
3. 12 peanuts; 4. 40 strikeouts, 5 per game average; 5. \$60 per child, \$240 total.

## *Page 17, Vocabulary: Use It!*

1. pilgrimage; 2. corridor; 3. supine; 4. irate;
5. immersed; 6. replica; 7. decimate;
8. misnomer; 9. doffed; 10. memorabilia

## *Page 22, Chapter Worksheet (1-4)*

5. shortstop; 6. Slugger McCoy; 7. Hank Aaron's bat and ball; 8. a Babe Ruth baseball card; 9. T; 10. F

## *Page 23, Chapter Worksheet (5-8)*

4. his baseball cards; 5. Cooperstown, New York;
6. Abner Doubleday; 7. Cincinnati Red Stockings; 8. F; 9. T; 10. F

## *Page 24, Chapter Worksheet (9-12)*

4. Jackie Robinson; 5. All-American Girls;
6. Babe Ruth; 7. Little League Baseball World Series; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T

## *Page 25, Chapter Worksheet (13-16)*

5. throw a baseball; 6. baseball bats; 7. Jack LaForge; 8. a clue; 9. F; 10. T

## *Page 26, Chapter Worksheet (17-20)*

5. Fenway Park; 6. the ghost of Babe Ruth;
7. the Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum;
8. a black bag; 9. F; 10. T

## *Page 27, Chapter Worksheet (21-24)*

3. Played for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League; 4. playing baseball; 5. her backpack; 6. the thief; 7. T; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T

## *Page 28, Vocabulary End of Unit Quiz*

1. decimated; 2. misnomer; 3. supine; 4. batting average; 5. demolished; 6. replica;
7. memorabilia; 8. doffed; 9. corridor; 10. irate

## *Page 29, Character Matching End of Unit Quiz*

1. J; 2. F; 3. B; 4. E; 5. G; 6. I; 7. H; 8. D;
9. A; 10. C

## *Page 30, Fill-in-the-Blank End of Unit Quiz*

1. play baseball; 2. Babe Ruth; 3. baseball cards;
4. Baseball Hall of Fame; 5. Hank Aaron;
6. Curse of the Bambino; 7. World Series;
8. Fenway Park; 9. slugger; 10. Yankee Stadium

## *Page 31, True/False End of Unit Quiz*

1. F; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F; 5. F; 6. F; 7. F; 8. T;
9. T; 10. T