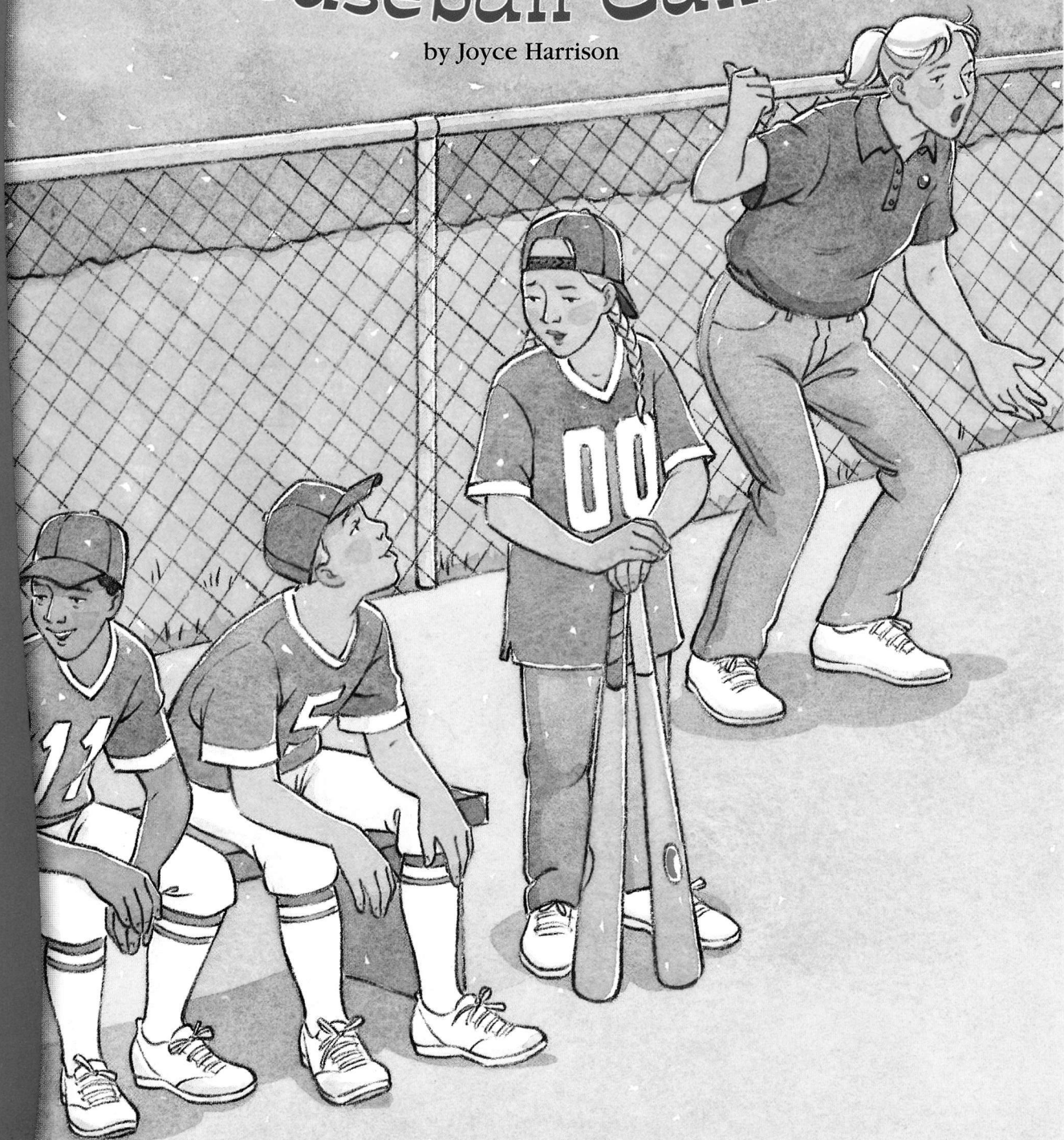


Sara's • First • Baseball Game

by Joyce Harrison



- 1 Sara was very excited. Today was her first baseball game. Her mom was the coach, and her brother played on the team. Sara was going to put the bats away and make sure the players had water. Sara could not play because she was still too young.
- 2 As the game began, Sara watched closely. Sara's mom yelled out, "Nick will bat," but Sara heard "nickel bat." She spent ten minutes looking for a nickel bat. She finally asked Sam, who was sitting on the bench, where she could find a nickel bat. It took Sam a minute to figure out what Sara was talking about. Then he said, "Sara, your mom said 'Nick will bat.' You missed it. See? Nick is on second base."
- 3 Sara watched as the next player swung her bat. "Foul ball," yelled the umpire. Sara looked puzzled and giggled as she asked Sam, "Fowl? Why is he calling that ball a chicken? It looks like a plain old baseball to me."
- 4 "He means f-o-u-l, not f-o-w-l, Sara. It means the ball didn't go straight," Sam answered patiently.
- 5 Finally the ball was hit, and it went right into the mitt of the player on third base. Nick was halfway there, but he had to turn back. People started yelling, "Tag him!"
- 6 Sam looked at Sara. He could see she was confused about something again. "What's wrong, Sara?" he asked.
- 7 She said, "Why does Nick need a price tag?"
- 8 Sam shook his head and smiled as he said, "They want the kid with the ball to touch Nick with it. Then he will be out."
- 9 Now it was Sara's turn to shake her head. "This game sure has a lot of funny words."

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 Another good name for this story is
 - a** Nick on Base.
 - b** Baseball's Strange Words.
- 2 Sara did *not* know what some of the baseball terms meant because she
 - a** was too young.
 - b** wasn't listening.
- 3 Fowl is
 - a** a kind of ball.
 - b** another name for chicken.

4 The person who caught the ball at third base

- a** was on Nick's team.
 - b** played for the other team.
- 5 Sam could tell Sara was confused because
- a** she looked confused.
 - b** he was confused by baseball too.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 eager; looking forward to something (1)
- 2 a type of metal; a coin worth five cents (2)
- 3 confused; not certain about something (3)
- 4 a bird such as a chicken, turkey, goose, or duck (3)
- 5 put a player out by touching him or her with the ball (5)

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6 It may cost more than a _____ to get into a baseball game.
- 7 _____ should not be on the baseball diamond during a game.
- 8 Nick was too fast, and the player on third could not _____ him.
- 9 Fans get very _____ at baseball games.
- 10 Many of the words used in baseball _____ Sara.

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** A story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. A story has a problem. A story is about how someone tries to solve the problem.

Parts of a Story

Beginning tells

- Who
- Where
- The problem

Middle tells

- How someone tries to solve the problem

End tells

- How the problem is solved

Read each sentence. Does it tell about the beginning, the middle, or the end of the story? Write *beginning*, *middle*, or *end*.

- 1 Sara asked Sam where a nickel bat could be found.
- 2 The game began.
- 3 Sara asked Sam to explain other words.
- 4 Sara was at her first baseball game.
- 5 Sara thought baseball had funny words.
- 6 Sara and Sam were watching the baseball game. **She** didn't understand some of the words.
a Sara
b Sam
- 7 Sara asked Sam to explain. "I don't understand what they mean," Sara said.
a Sara
b Sam
- 8 Sara's mom was the coach, and Sara's brother was on the team. **He** was a good player.
a Sara's mom
b Sara's brother
- 9 Sara asked Sam to explain things about the game. Sara trusted **him**.
a Sara
b Sam
- 10 Sara watched as the player on third base caught the ball. **She** tagged Nick.
a Sara
b The player on third base

How Do You Catch a Gooney Duck?

by Maureen Tam



- 1 The geoduck's name sounds like "gooey duck." However, the geoduck isn't a duck at all. It's a giant clam. It lives on the northwest shores of America.
- 2 The geoduck looks strange. Like all clams, it has a double shell that's hinged at one side. However, its shell is too small. Its soft body bulges out at the sides. Its "neck" sticks out like a long hose.
- 3 This big clam is never seen on the beach. The shore where it lives is underwater except at very low tides. Besides, it buries itself in the sand. Its long neck is a pipeline to the top. It sucks in food and lets out waste through this hose.
- 4 Geoducks aren't easy to catch. However, hunting them is great sport. Plus, the prize is worth it. One clam will feed a large family.
- 5 The best time to hunt geoducks is at very low tides. These tides take place just twice a year—in spring and in autumn.
- 6 The hunts are at night. Two people are needed. One is the neck man. The other is the shovel man. They walk along the beach. They look for a spurt of water from a geoduck's hose.
- 7 The neck man dives for the hose. The clam starts to pull in its neck. The man holds tight. At last, his hand finds the geoduck's body. He holds on. The shovel man digs up the prize.
- 8 Sometimes a big one gets away. After all, it's not so easy to grab a clam by the neck in the dark!

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1** This story is about
 - a** prize ducks that live on the shore.
 - b** large clams and how people hunt them.
- 2** One way in which a geoduck is different from most clams is that
 - a** it lives in the water and has a hinged shell.
 - b** its body is much larger than its shell.

3 People like to catch geoducks because

- a** they are very good to eat.
- b** their shells have many uses.

4 Low tide is the best time to hunt a geoduck because its

- a** home isn't underwater then.
- b** neck is sucking in food then.

5 You can tell from this story that tides

- a** are pretty much the same all year long.
- b** change at different times of the year.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1** odd; unusual (2)
- 2** swells; hangs out (2)
- 3** changes in the water level (3)
- 4** covers up; hides (3)
- 5** fun; play; amusement (4)

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6** Many people like the _____ of geoduck hunting.
- 7** It's hard to see a clam that always _____ itself.
- 8** People look for geoducks during low _____.
- 9** *Geoduck* may seem like a _____ name for a clam.
- 10** The geoduck's body _____ out of its small shell.

THINK ABOUT IT

D A fact is something that is true. An opinion is what someone thinks.

Fact: Mrs. Lopez is a teacher.

Opinion: I think she is nice.

Read each sentence. Is it a fact or an opinion? Write *Fact* if it is a fact. Write *Opinion* if it is an opinion.

- 1 I think that geoducks should not be hunted for sport.
- 2 The geoduck sucks in food through its long neck.
- 3 The meat of the geoduck is used for food.
- 4 I think that hunting geoducks at night is too hard.
- 5 Geoducks are hunted when the tides are low.

E redo = **re** + do
unhappy = **un** + happy

The letters *re-* and *un-* are called prefixes. A prefix is added to the beginning of a word. It changes the word's meaning. The prefix *re-* means "again." The word *redo* means "do again." The prefix *un-* means "not." The word *unhappy* means "not happy."

Each word in **bold type** needs a prefix. Choose the correct prefix, *re-* or *un-*. Write the new word.

- 6 The geoduck is not like most clams. It is ____**usual**.
- 7 The hunters decided to look around the beach again. They were going to ____**check** the beach.
- 8 I was concerned we would not find one. My friend, however, was ____**concerned**.
- 9 The geoduck tried to bury itself again with sand. It tried to ____**bury** itself.
- 10 The man cleaned the clams again. He ____**washed** them.