

WHO GOT GAME?: BASEBALL AMAZING BUT TRUE STORIES!

GRL S • Grade 4 • Interest Level 4–7

Essential Questions—Get Familiar with the Topic!

1. What is baseball?
2. What is the historical impact of baseball on American culture?
3. How crucial are sports to the evolution of our society?
4. Are baseball and politics connected?
5. How do sports affect the psyche of a community?
6. Why is the appeal of sports so prevalent in our society?
7. How are issues of sexism and discrimination evident in sports?
8. Why do we, as a society, idolize and venerate sports figures?
9. How do sports figures make a difference in our society?
10. What qualities do sports figures have?
11. Are sports figures heroes?
12. Are sports figures celebrities?
13. Can a sports figure go unnoticed?
14. Why is it important for people and cultures to construct narratives about their experience?



During Reading—Think about It!

1. Look at the Table of Contents. What information do you get from the Table of Contents?
2. Which stories interest you the most?
3. How does author Derrick Barnes structure the text?
4. What are some of the text features that help you navigate this book?
5. How does the author use figurative language?
6. What is the tone of the book?
7. What is an unrecognized or unheralded figure?
8. Summarize the introduction.
9. What is the author's purpose for writing this book?
10. Explain the author's point of view.
11. What is Derrick Barnes saying about racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination?
12. How has baseball changed over the years? Explain.
13. What surprising information have you gained through reading this book?

After Reading—Making Connections

Complete the cause and effect chart using examples from the stories you read.



CAUSE

EFFECT

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Compare and contrast baseball figures, stories, records, and comebacks from each section of the book.

Pivotal Players • Sensational Stories • Radical Records • Colossal Comebacks











COMPARE & CONTRAST

MAIN TOPIC	
SUBTOPIC	SUBTOPIC
ALIKE	
DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT
DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT
DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT
DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT

Make text to text & text to world Connections

Find evidence from within the book, *Who's Got Game?: Baseball*, to defend the following statements.

-  Baseball transforms a society, both reflecting and shaping its values.
-  The American Dream is embodied in sports figures and teams, in the records they set and the barriers they break.
-  Baseball is a significant social phenomenon.
-  Baseball has changed society's views on race, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic differences and opportunities.
-  Identifying with a baseball team impacts personal and community identity.
-  Deeply rooted in national and community pride, baseball changes lives, influences politics, fuels the economy, and shapes our culture.
-  Baseball brings out leadership qualities in individuals, and it provides a place to develop those skills and model ideal behaviors.
-  Varying forms of discrimination have been evident in baseball over the years and to the present day.

Activities

1. Create a newspaper article about someone or an event that you have learned about in the book.
2. Write a journal entry covering a pivotal 24 hours in the life of one of the heroes in the book.
3. Create a timeline of important events in baseball history.
4. In small groups, collaborate to create an audio broadcast for something you found to be newsworthy from the book.

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