

Table of Contents

About the Author..... ii

Introduction..... iii

Teaching Suggestions..... iii

Sample Activity iv-v

Skills for Reading Comprehension/Literary Analysis 1

Exercises..... 2

Answers 38

About the Author

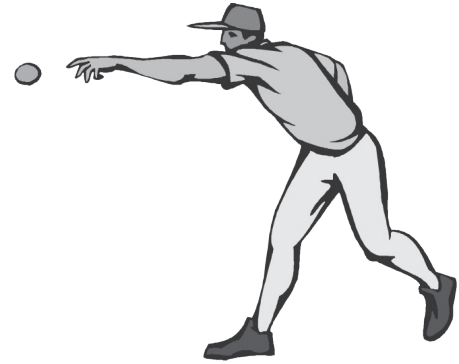
Robert E. Owen, M.A.

With more than 15 years of experience, Robert has contributed to the field of education in many capacities, including: teacher (private, public, and alternative), tutor, author, researcher, consultant, and guest lecturer. His curricular and pedagogical perspectives are student-centered, constructivist, and simultaneously challenging and supportive. As an educator, Robert’s primary focus is on the advancement of higher-order thinking skills through the development of interdisciplinary curriculum content.

Free resource from www.criticalthinking.com. Commercial redistribution prohibited

11. Inspiration in Baseball¹

¹In 1967, a boy named Jim Abbott was born in Flint, Michigan. ²As Jim grew, he developed a love for many sports. ³He would bounce baseballs off a wall to practice fielding like lots of other kids his age. ⁴But Jim wasn't like lots of other kids. ⁵He had been born with no right hand. ⁶He would balance the glove on his right arm, throw the ball, and then quickly switch the glove back onto his left hand to field the ball.



⁷In high school, he led his football team to the state semi-finals as their starting quarterback. ⁸He was also an auspicious young pitcher. ⁹He had an amazing beginning to his career, including performances in the Pan-Am Games and 1988 Summer Olympics. ¹⁰He was drafted by the California Angels in 1988, and was only the 15th player to begin his professional baseball career in the Major Leagues. ¹¹He had a great career, and even pitched a no-hitter in 1993 for the Yankees.

¹²Did Jim give up on his childhood love of sports because he didn't look like all the other kids and at times was teased? ¹³Did he give up when he had to work hard to do what other people do with two hands? ¹⁴No. ¹⁵He competed with everyone else and triumphed. ¹⁶He faced unbelievable odds and beat them. ¹⁷He believed in himself, even when some kids were cruel, and he benefited from all the support and encouragement shown to him by other people, especially his parents. ¹⁸He is one of baseball's finest examples of the human spirit.

Circle **T** if you are certain this sentence is true. Circle **F** if you are certain it is false. Circle **U** if it is unknown because you need more information. Add the sentence number(s) that best supports your true or false answer.

1. Jim played in the Pan-Am Games. T ____, F ____, or U
2. Jim liked basketball. T ____, F ____, or U
3. Jim played football. T ____, F ____, or U

Circle the letter next to the correct answer or write the answer on the lines given.

4. Based on the story, Jim could be described as:

a. determined.	c. talented.
b. athletic.	d. all of the above

¹Written by Susan Penfiel

5. Number the events in order.

_____ Jim pitched a no-hitter for the Yankees.

_____ Jim practiced fielding

_____ Jim was in the Summer Olympics.

_____ Jim played football.

6. Jim expected:

a. special treatment.

c. a lot of himself.

b. to work hard.

d. b and c

7. The word "auspicious" in sentence 8 most likely means:

a. he was disciplined.

c. he showed great promise.

b. he had high standards.

d. he could be counted on.

8. What is the theme of this story?

a. Jim liked to play baseball.

c. Baseball was Jim's favorite sport.

b. Baseball can be a good career.

d. You can overcome anything with passion and determination.

9. Which sentence best supports the idea that Jim adapted to his physical challenges?

a. sentence 5

c. sentence 3

b. sentence 4

d. sentence 6

Circle **PT** for probably true or **PF** for probably false. Be sure to supply the best evidence that supports your answer: sentence number(s) and/or personal knowledge.

10. The support Jim received from family and friends helped him succeed.

PT or PF Sentence _____ Personal knowledge: _____

11. It didn't bother Jim when he was teased as a child.

PT or PF Sentence _____ Personal knowledge: _____
