

Maniac Baseball

by Amanda Pearson

Standards

- IL.1.B STANDARD: Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency.
- IL.1.C STANDARD: Comprehend a broad range of reading materials.
- IL.16 GOAL: Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.

Resources

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Book

Computer Lab Time

www.loc.gov

Students will have read another chapter in Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli for fluency and understanding. As an extension to understanding this lesson, students will have read and learned about the history of baseball in America and comprehended this information to answer questions. Students will connect the present with the past through reading about baseball today and in the past.

Activities

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli aloud to the class, reading Chapter 8 where Grayson describes his baseball career to Maniac.

As a class, compare and contrast Grayson and Maniac's baseball talent using a Venn Diagram on the whiteboard.

Next, use children's prior knowledge of baseball to discuss why Grayson and Maniac may have played differently. Discuss baseball in the past and present. Allow children to tell what they know about baseball.

After discussing baseball, tell the class that they will learn more about how baseball began. Remind them that baseball is called "America's Pastime." Ask, "why is baseball called this?"

Go to the computer lab and have students log onto www.loc.gov . Instruct the class to click on the text reading "Kids and Families" and then on America's Library. Next, tell the students to click the "America at Play" icon and then the text reading "Play Ball!" on the right hand side. Ask for a volunteer to read aloud the information on the page.

After the information is read, tell students to scroll down to click on "3 Strikes You're Out: How Baseball Began." For each page, ask for a volunteer reader and pose each question.

When the reading is complete, allow children to recall their new knowledge by playing the game "Batter Up!" To get to the game, click on the "America at Play" icon at the top of the page. After about 10 minutes, ask students to tell information they learned about baseball.

Safely log off computers and return to classroom.

Assessments

Teacher observation to assess this activity by noting participation in discussion, read-aloud fluency, and note if children are answering the game questions correctly.