Skill - Reading Comprehension Name_____

The Baseball Tryouts

Story By: Judie Eberhardt



Joey's favorite sport is baseball. He watches his favorite team every time they are on T.V. and even goes to the games when his dad can take him to the ballpark. All Joey ever wanted to do was play baseball. So, he thought to himself, *I will try out for the baseball team at the park*. That Saturday there were tryouts for the local team called the Flames. Joey was so excited that he got to the park early that morning.

Joey always thought he was a good baseball player, but for some reason he couldn't hit one pitch thrown his way. After trying to hit about 10 pitches, Joey finally gave up and sat down. "I always hit the ball when I practice with dad," Joey told his friend Billy. "I don't understand why I can't hit today." Billy told him that maybe he was just nervous and to go back the next day for the other team tryouts. "Maybe you're right," said Joey. "I'll try again tomorrow."

The next day, Joey returned to the park and went in line for the Owls. Joey got up and missed the first two pitches. On the third pitch, Joey hit a homerun! "Wow!" Everyone on the bench yelled when they saw how far Joey hit the ball. Joey loved the feeling he got when he ran all the bases knowing that no one was able to catch his hit. Then it was Joey's turn to be in the outfield. He watched carefully as a hit came his way, and he caught the ball even with the sun in his eyes! The coach told Joey he made the team. *I'm going to be an Owl,* Joey said to himself with such pride! He rushed home to tell his mom the good news. "Joey, I knew you would make the team." "You just need to practice and not give up."

When Joey went back to the park, he met a boy named Dave practicing his batting. He told Joey he wanted to try out for the Owls next spring. Dave was having a hard time hitting the ball. Joey told him, "Don't give up." "Just keep practicing, and you will get better." "If you want, I'll help you." Dave smiled and agreed to meet Joey at the park on Saturday to practice his batting. Dave was able to hit many pitches the more he practiced. The boys became good friends and went to a professional baseball game together. Joey's dad arranged for them to meet one of the first basemen who not only gave them autographs, but tips for hitting the ball as well!

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Story Structure

Title:

Setting	Characters

Plot

Beginning

Middle

End

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