



Name _____ Date _____

BABE RUTH

On February 16, 1895, a star was born. A baseball star, that is—George Herman Ruth, Jr. He would go on to be one of the greatest baseball players of all time. At the age of seven, George's father took him to St. Mary's School. It was a reform school and an orphanage. George seldom saw his family after that. He was in trouble a lot at school. Brother Matthias took George under his wing and became a great supporter of young George.

George showed a natural talent for baseball early on. He was a great catcher and pitcher. Jack Dunn gave George his first baseball contract, which was to play with the Baltimore Orioles. The players called him "Jack's newest babe," and the name stuck. From then on he was known as *Babe Ruth*.

Babe Ruth stayed with the Orioles for only five months. At the age of 19, he was playing in the major leagues for the Boston Red Sox. Babe set many records. One of them still stands: He still holds the record for pitching 13 innings without a score. This game went on to be the longest complete game of the World Series. Babe went on to play for the New York Yankees. He set even more records. In 1920, his first season with the Yankees, he set a record of hitting 54 home runs. His greatest homerun was probably when he pointed to the outfield wall in Wrigley Field and hit what is believed to be the longest home run hit there—right where he had pointed. Babe Ruth deserves to have his name remembered in baseball for many years to come.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does the phrase "take him under his wing" mean?
 - a. hook him up with a pair of wings
 - b. show him some tricks of the trade
 - c. nurture and be a mentor for Babe
 - d. teach him techniques that will help on the baseball field
2. What is a word that could be used to describe Babe Ruth?
 - a. studious
 - b. talented
 - c. rugged
 - d. honest
3. George's childhood could be described as . . .
 - a. loving and caring.
 - b. supportive yet strict.
 - c. typical and normal.
 - d. unhappy and unsettled.