



The Baseball Game

VERSION #1

Tone: _____

Cindy smiled. Her pal, Tom, was on a baseball team, and she couldn't wait to watch him play. She loved baseball! Sure, Tom's team, the Hopetown Hamsters, had never won a single game, but the boys had practiced hard, the sun was shining, and she had a very good feeling that today was the day they would win. Cindy walked excitedly in the direction of the baseball diamond, waving cheerfully to her neighbors along the way. What nice people! When she got to the shiny silver bleachers, she climbed to the very top to get the best view possible. Hooray! Her hilarious friend Henry was there. He always had the most wonderful jokes to share. He always had the best snacks, too, and offered her some of his buttered popcorn. *Mmmmmmm*. Cindy chomped and cheered! It was going to be a great game indeed.

VERSION #2

Tone: _____

Cynthia frowned. In a weak moment, she had promised her annoying friend Tom that she'd attend his baseball game. And it was too late to back out now. Baseball was a depressing sport. Especially when you were supporting the Sorrytown Seals—a ragtag team of misfits that *always* lost. Cynthia walked in the direction of the baseball diamond, lifting her hand lazily to return the enthusiastic greetings of her neighbors. What did they have to be so happy about? When she got to the battered gray bleachers, she climbed up to the very top so she wouldn't have to talk to anyone. But her plan didn't work. Her boring friend Henry plopped down beside her. He then proceeded to tell her the dumbest jokes while loudly crunching popcorn, which he proceeded to spill *everywhere*. What a mess! Cynthia sighed. It was going to be a very bad game indeed.

VERSION #3 **Tone:** _____

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Cinderella. Her tiny friend, Tom Thumb, invited her to his baseball game. Sure, his team, the Itty Bitties, had never won a game. Sure, it took six players to lift a single baseball. But she'd made a wish, and her Fairy Godmother *promised* her that Tom's team would win today. . . just as long as the game ended before midnight. Cinderella rode her pumpkin-bike all the way to the baseball diamond, waving sweetly to the leprechauns, giants, and talking farm animals along the way. What interesting folks! When she got to the jewel-encrusted bleachers, she climbed to the very top and sat beside her boyfriend, the handsome prince. The handsome prince always had the finest stories to tell about the kooky characters in his kingdom. He had the fanciest snacks, too, and offered her some of his gourmet popcorn dripping with golden butter. Cinderella licked her ruby lips. It was going to be a magical game indeed!



TONE: The attitude of the narrator toward the events, settings, and characters in a story. Tone can reveal a variety of emotions ranging from gloomy to joyful, silly to sarcastic. Tone is conveyed through writing style, word choice, dialogue, symbols, and more. Some stories have more than one tone.



Here are some common fiction tones. Add some more.

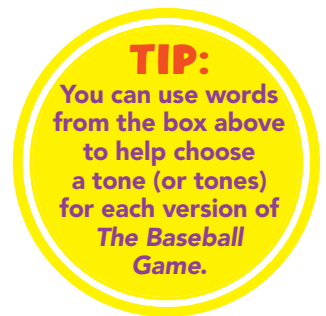
scary
zany
fantastical
enthusiastic
bossy

annoyed
gloomy
stuck-up
jealous
innocent

dorky
confused
bored
nervous
joyful

Key Questions

1. Who is the narrator of each of these three passages?
2. What is the tone (or tones) of the first passage? Underline clues that tell you so. Then write your answer on the line.
3. What is the tone (or tones) of the second passage? Underline clues that tell you so. Then write your answer on the line.
4. What is the tone (or tones) of the third passage? Underline clues that tell you so. Then write your answer on the line.
5. Which passage do you like the best? Tell why.



S-t-r-e-t-c-h Question: Voices have tones, too, such as *sweet*, *mean*, *sorry*, and *giddy*. Invite each student to say “the book is on the table” in a specific tone. Can the class guess the tone? How are these tones of voice similar to and different from those of stories?

The Write Stuff

Rewrite your own version of *The Baseball Game* using a brand-new tone from the box above.



Answer Key

TIP: No two readers interpret a story—including its characters, plot, setting, tone, or imagery—exactly the same way.

For that reason, it's wise to invite differing opinions and healthy debate in the context of your literacy lessons.



TONE: The Baseball Game

Key Questions: **1.** Version #1 = Cindy, Version #2 = Cynthia, Version #3 = Cinderella. **2.** Answers will vary, but could include enthusiastic and/or joyful. **3.** Answers will vary, but could include gloomy and/or annoyed. **4.** Answers will vary, but could include zany and/or fantastical. **5.** Answers will vary.

S-t-r-e-t-c-h Question: Answers will vary.

Common Core State Standards Correlation

This lesson and activity will help you meet many of the reading and language arts standards recommended in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Listed below are the specific CCSS Reading Standards for Literature (RL) addressed in this lesson at each grade level. For more information about the CCSS, visit www.corestandards.org.

Literary Element



TONE

RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
RL.5.6: Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.
RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RL.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific words choices on meaning and tone.