

# The Summer of Baseball Parks

by M. Lee    illustrated by John Kurtz



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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BOSTON

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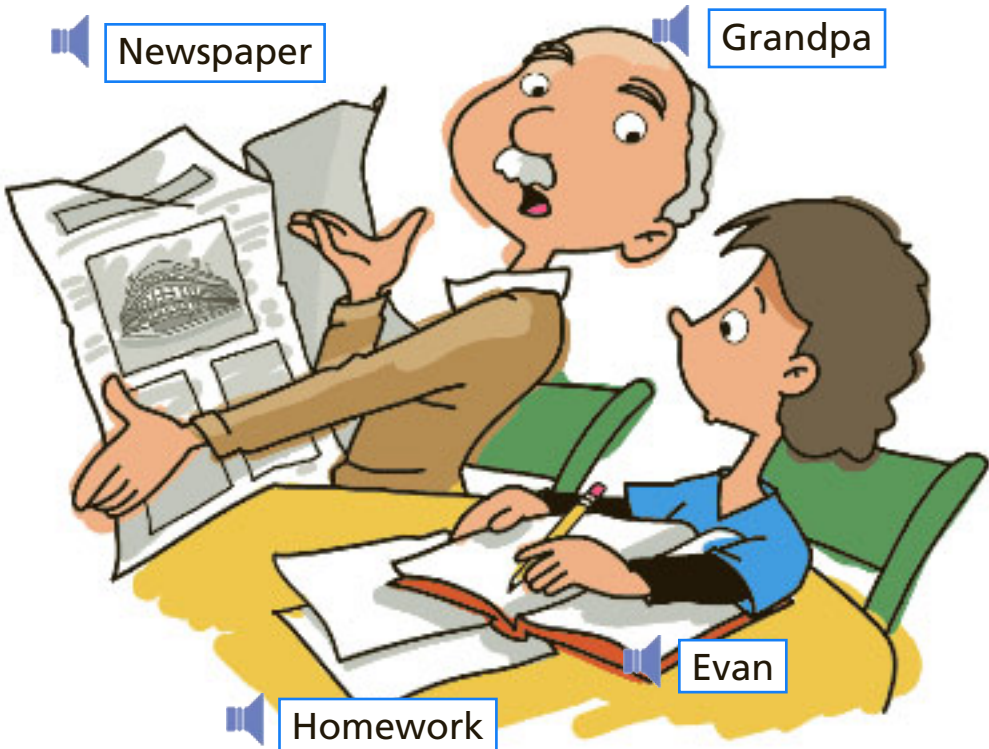
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One Sunday, Evan sat at the table doing his homework. Grandpa sat next to him with the newspaper. He looked upset.

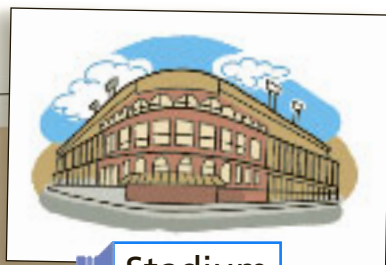
“Is something wrong?” asked Evan.

“They are going to close Shea Stadium,” said Grandpa. “It’s my favorite baseball park. It opened more than forty years ago. I was a young man then.”



🔊 Grandpa laughed. “I am just like my father. He was your Great-Grandpa Jim. *His* favorite baseball park was Ebbets Field. He loved to watch the Dodgers play there. Great-Grandpa Jim was very sad when Ebbets Field closed and the Dodgers left New York. I never went to a game there.”

“That is too bad,” said Evan.



🔊 Stadium



🔊 Baseball game

🔊 Grandpa looked at Evan. “Do you want to watch a game at Shea Stadium before it closes? We could go together.”

“Yes, please!” said Evan.

🔊 “You will not have school in the summer,” said Grandpa. “We could drive to some other old baseball parks in the summer. We could go to Fenway Park in Boston and Wrigley Field in Chicago!”

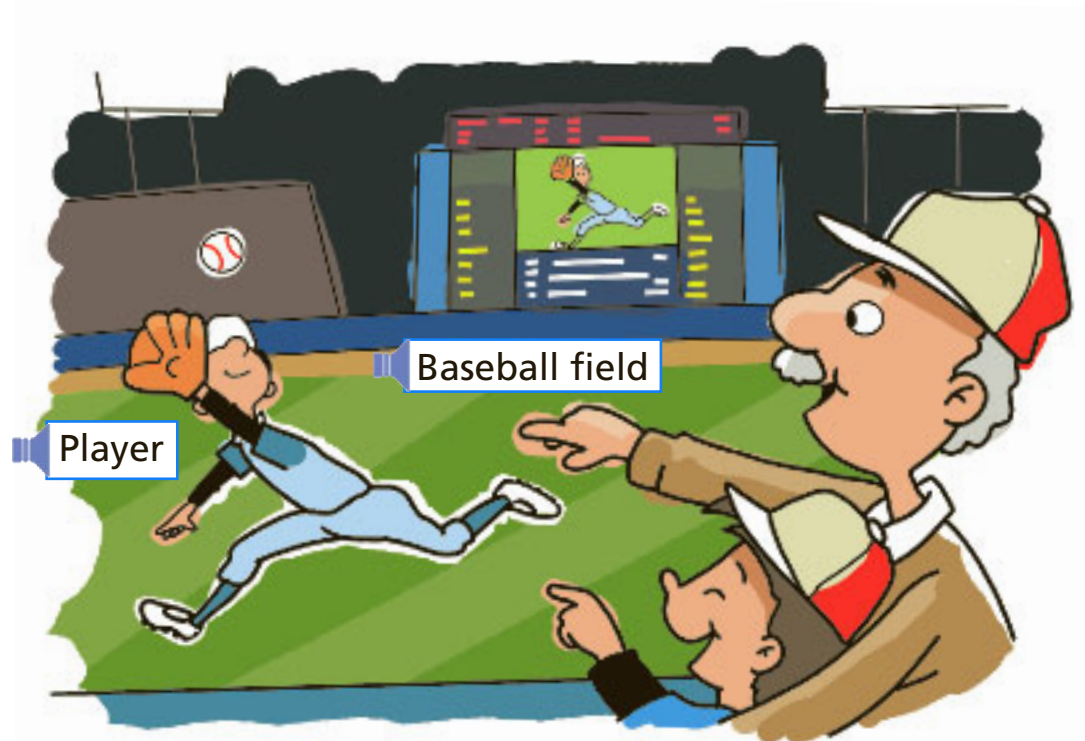
“What a great idea!” said Evan.




🔊 A few days later, Evan and Grandpa went to Shea Stadium to watch a baseball game. They **hurried** to get inside the park and sit down.

They wanted to watch the players **practice** throwing and hitting the ball before the game.


🔊 The game was exciting! At the end of the game, both teams had the same score. They spent more, or **extra**, time playing, and then the Mets won! Everyone **cheered** loudly.






“Today was great!” said Evan. “Let’s go on our trip soon.”

Grandpa smiled. “We will leave in a few days.”



It was hard for Evan to wait for the trip. He was very excited. On the morning of their trip, Grandpa said, “Let’s go, Evan!” They got into the car and drove for a long time.



By the afternoon, Evan and Grandpa were in Boston. They stepped out of the car and onto the **curb**. Then they walked to Fenway Park. The street outside the park was crowded with people selling food.

“I like Fenway Park!” said Evan.

FENWAY PARK  
YAWKEY WAY ← GATE





🔊 “This park is almost a hundred years old,”  
said Grandpa.

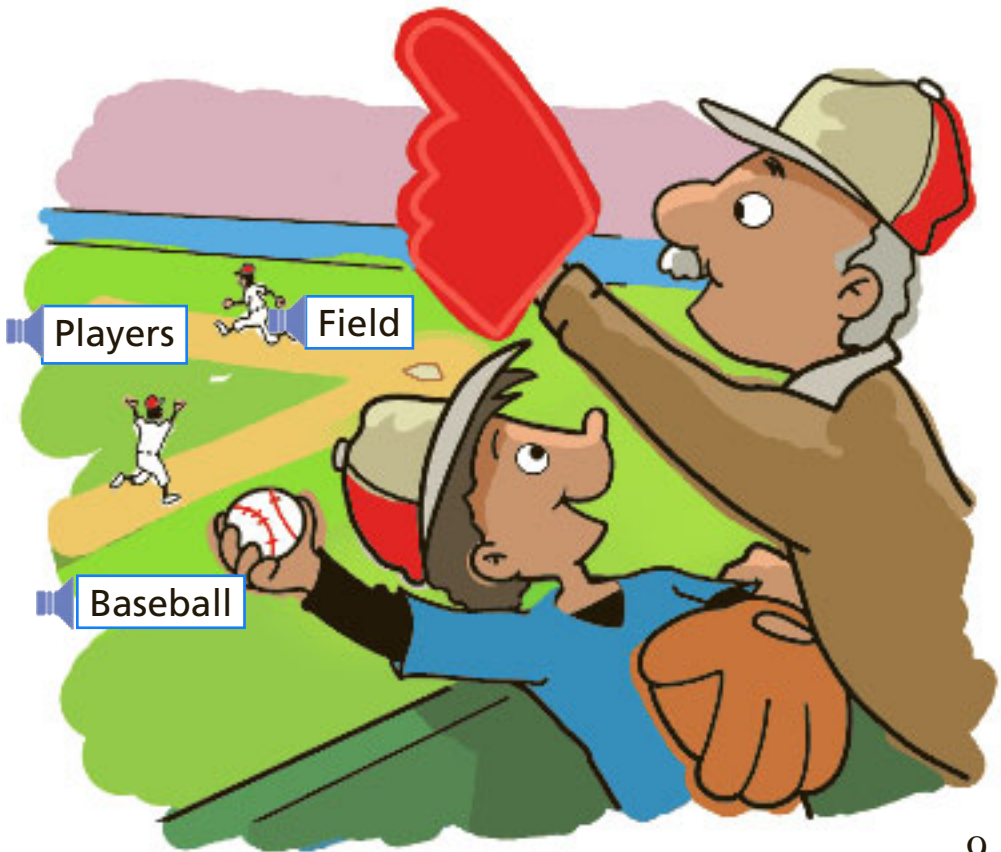
🔊 “Look! The Green Monster!” said Evan.  
The Green Monster was a tall green wall  
on one side of the field. “I’m having fun,  
Grandpa!”


Grandpa smiled.




They watched another great game. The last, or **final**, batter got ready to hit. The other players were in their **positions** all around the field. The final batter hit the ball high and far. Grandpa and Evan **roared** and cheered.


“This park is wonderful,” said Grandpa. “I hope it will never close.”



 Evan and Grandpa spent a few days driving from Boston to Chicago.

 Grandpa told Evan about Wrigley Field. “The park is in the middle of the city,” said Grandpa. “Some people wait outside to catch balls that are hit over the wall. And some people go up to the rooftops to watch games!”



 Rooftop

🔊 Evan and Grandpa arrived at Wrigley Field. They went to watch the Cubs play against the Mets. Evan and Grandpa were happy to watch the Mets again.

🔊 The game was exciting. When the game was almost over, both teams had the same score! The best batter got ready to hit. He tried to hit the first ball, but he missed. Then he missed again.

🔊 Grandpa and Evan cheered loudly to show how much they wanted the Mets to win.

The batter hit a ball far across the field. The Mets won!



🔊 It was time for Evan and Grandpa to drive home.

After they got home, they talked about their trip. “It was fun visiting old baseball parks!” said Evan. “Thank you for taking me.”

🔊 “I agree,” said Grandpa. “When you grow up, you might have a grandson. Maybe you will take him on a trip like this, too.”



🔊 Then Evan said, “I have an idea! Next summer, we can visit *new* baseball parks. We can start with Citi Field and the new Yankee Stadium in New York. Then we can go to Nationals Park in Washington. There are so many parks to see!”

“That sounds great!” said Grandpa.

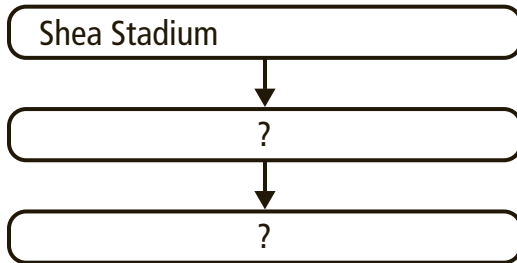


# Responding



## TARGET SKILL Sequence of Events

After Shea Stadium, which ballpark do Evan and Grandpa visit next? Which do they visit last? Copy the chart and write in the other ballparks.



## Write About It

**Text to Text** Think of another story you read about a sport. Pretend that you are playing that sport. Then write a paragraph about playing an exciting game. Tell what happens first, next, and last.





### TARGET VOCABULARY

cheered

curb

extra

final

hurried

position

practice

roared



### TARGET SKILL

**Sequence of Events** Tell

the order in which things happen.



### TARGET STRATEGY

**Visualize** Picture what

is happening as you read.



**GENRE Realistic fiction** is a story that could happen in real life.

**Level:** K

**DRA:** 20

**Genre:**

Realistic Fiction

**Strategy:**

Visualize

**Skill:**

Sequence of Events

**Word Count:** 690

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