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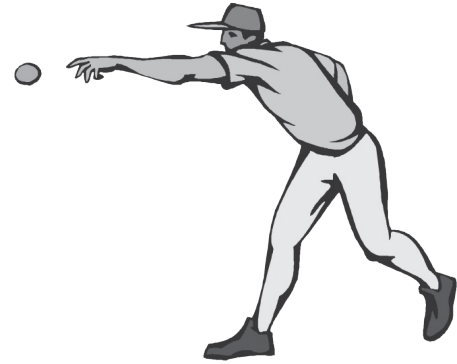
About the Author

Robert E. Owen, M.A.

With more than 15 years of experience, Robert has contributed to the field of education in many capacities, including: teacher (private, public, and alternative), tutor, author, researcher, consultant, and guest lecturer. His curricular and pedagogical perspectives are student-centered, constructivist, and simultaneously challenging and supportive. As an educator, Robert's primary focus is on the advancement of higher-order thinking skills through the development of interdisciplinary curriculum content.

11. Inspiration in Baseball¹

¹In 1967, a boy named Jim Abbott was born in Flint, Michigan. ²As Jim grew, he developed a love for many sports. ³He would bounce baseballs off a wall to practice fielding like lots of other kids his age. ⁴But Jim wasn't like lots of other kids. ⁵He had been born with no right hand. ⁶He would balance the glove on his right arm, throw the ball, and then quickly switch the glove back onto his left hand to field the ball.



⁷In high school, he led his football team to the state semi-finals as their starting quarterback. ⁸He was also an auspicious young pitcher. ⁹He had an amazing beginning to his career, including performances in the Pan-Am Games and 1988 Summer Olympics. ¹⁰He was drafted by the California Angels in 1988, and was only the 15th player to begin his professional baseball career in the Major Leagues. ¹¹He had a great career, and even pitched a no-hitter in 1993 for the Yankees.

¹²Did Jim give up on his childhood love of sports because he didn't look like all the other kids and at times was teased? ¹³Did he give up when he had to work hard to do what other people do with two hands? ¹⁴No. ¹⁵He competed with everyone else and triumphed. ¹⁶He faced unbelievable odds and beat them. ¹⁷He believed in himself, even when some kids were cruel, and he benefited from all the support and encouragement shown to him by other people, especially his parents. ¹⁸He is one of baseball's finest examples of the human spirit.

Circle **T** if you are certain this sentence is true. Circle **F** if you are certain it is false. Circle **U** if it is unknown because you need more information. Add the sentence number(s) that best supports your true or false answer.

1. Jim played in the Pan-Am Games. T ____, F ____, or U
2. Jim liked basketball. T ____, F ____, or U
3. Jim played football. T ____, F ____, or U

Circle the letter next to the correct answer or write the answer on the lines given.

4. Based on the story, Jim could be described as:

a. determined.	c. talented.
b. athletic.	d. all of the above

¹Written by Susan Penfiel

5. Number the events in order.
- _____ Jim pitched a no-hitter for the Yankees.
- _____ Jim practiced fielding
- _____ Jim was in the Summer Olympics.
- _____ Jim played football.
6. Jim expected:
- a. special treatment. c. a lot of himself.
- b. to work hard. d. b and c
7. The word "auspicious" in sentence 8 most likely means:
- a. he was disciplined. c. he showed great promise.
- b. he had high standards. d. he could be counted on.
8. What is the theme of this story?
- a. Jim liked to play baseball. c. Baseball was Jim's favorite sport.
- b. Baseball can be a good career. d. You can overcome anything with passion and determination.
9. Which sentence best supports the idea that Jim adapted to his physical challenges?
- a. sentence 5 c. sentence 3
- b. sentence 4 d. sentence 6

Circle **PT** for probably true or **PF** for probably false. Be sure to supply the best evidence that supports your answer: sentence number(s) and/or personal knowledge.

10. The support Jim received from family and friends helped him succeed.

PT or PF Sentence _____ Personal knowledge: _____

11. It didn't bother Jim when he was teased as a child.

PT or PF Sentence _____ Personal knowledge: _____
