

SummerReads: Bats & Balls - Baseball

by Charles Fisher

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David Ortiz at bat for the Boston Red Sox during a game against the Chicago White Sox, July 2006.

Baseball can be exciting to play or watch. But playing or watching baseball also means that you have to be ready to wait and pay attention. A minute of exciting action can be followed by long periods of little action. For the team at bat, only the batter and batters who have gotten on base are on the field. The rest of the team waits for their turn to bat. For the team in the field, most of the action is between the pitcher and the catcher. But the other players in the field need to pay attention. Once a ball is hit, they have to act quickly.

The center of attention is a baseball. It is two pieces of white leather. These two pieces of leather are stitched together with waxed red thread. There are exactly 108 stitches on every baseball. Both the bat and the ball are very hard. Fielders wear padded gloves to protect their hands. Batters wear helmets to protect their heads.

Each team has nine turns to bat. Each set of turns is called an inning. If the score is tied at the end of nine innings, the teams play another inning. If the score is still tied, they play yet another inning. A baseball game can go on for a very long time!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the text, what game can be exciting to play or watch?

2. Support your answer with evidence from the text and images.

"Playing or watching baseball also means that you have to be ready to wait and pay attention."

Give two pieces of evidence that show that you have to wait and pay attention when you play or watch baseball.

3. What is a main idea of this text?