Name _____

AMI

DAY 1

Walnut Ridge Elementary

Alternative Method of Instruction Verification Form

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	
Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	
This form	certifies that y	our child com	pleted work fo	or the designated day.	
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A Funny Old Ballpark

by W.M. Akers (Adapted by ReadWorks)



Have you ever seen a baseball stadium with a hill in it? In Nashville, Tennessee, there used to be a stadium just like that. It was called Sulphur Dell. It was one of the strangest ballparks in history.

In most ballparks, the right field fence is about 330 feet from home plate. In Sulphur Dell, it was only 262 feet from home plate. That made it easy for players to hit home runs, if they hit the ball to just the right spot. That's pretty strange, but not as strange as the hill in the outfield. It sloped up in front of the right field fence. It was about 22 feet high!

A man named Skip Nipper wrote about Sulphur Dell in a book and calls the stadium "quirky." Quirky is another word for strange. There is a story Skip likes to tell that shows how quirky the stadium was. It is about a player named Phil Weintraub, who had some trouble with the hill in the outfield.

"A hard line drive came his way," says Skip, "and he ran down the hill and reached down to catch the ball and missed it. It went between his legs. He turned around, went up the hill to catch it, and once again it went between his legs. When he finally got it, he threw it over the third baseman's head."

In baseball, when a player makes a mistake, it's called an "error." It's pretty bad if a player makes more than one error in a game. On that play, Phil made three!

ReadWorks* A Funny Old Ballpark - StepRead1

A lot of great players played at Sulphur Dell. Even the famous Babe Ruth played there. When he came to play, the whole city was excited. The state senators all left work early so that they could go to the game. They didn't want to miss their chance to see Babe Ruth. Back then, baseball wasn't shown on TV, so people had to be at a game if they wanted to see it. Babe Ruth was in the outfield when he played there. Skip says Babe Ruth "almost broke one of his legs" running on the hill.

The baseball players didn't like the hill, but the people of Nashville loved their stadium. They called it "the Dell." Skip started going to games at the Dell when he was a child. His father and grandfather would take him.

"My dad would take me and my cousin or my brother," he says. "We would sit on the first base side, so we could see that right field hill. And my grandfather would not let us go to the concession stand until the seventh-inning stretch. He wanted us to watch the game."

One of the greatest games ever played at the Dell was in 1916. A pitcher named Tom Rogers was pitching for a team called the Tennessee Volunteers. They called him Shotgun Rogers, because he threw the ball so fast. In that game, he pitched better than he ever had. He did something that almost never happens in baseball: he threw a perfect game. That means that nobody on the other team got a hit for the whole game. Nobody got a walk. Nobody even got to first base!

By 1963, the old stadium wasn't so popular anymore. People stopped playing baseball there, and later the stadium was torn down. It had been around for almost 100 years.

Then a new team came to town. They were the Nashville Sounds, and they built themselves a ballpark called Greer Stadium. A lot of famous players played there, like Don Mattingly and Ryan Braun. Even Michael Jordan played there when he was playing baseball.

In 2015 the Sounds moved to a new ballpark. Its name is First Tennessee Park, and it is right where Sulphur Dell used to be. What does Skip think of the choice to build First Tennessee Park there? He doesn't care.

"I'm a baseball fan," he says. "I'm going to go wherever they play."

Name:	Date:	
1. What was Sulphur Dell?	personal color than appropriate area	

- A. a baseball
- B. a historian
- C. a ballpark
- D. a meeting place for state senators

2. What does this passage describe?

- A. This passage describes the career of baseball stars like Babe Ruth, Don Mattingly, and Ryan Braun.
- B. This passage describes a strange old ballpark and some of the things that happened there
- C. This passage describes the reasons that some people want to build a new ballpark next to the state Capitol in Tennessee.
- D. This passage describes the different players on the Nashville Sounds.
- 3. Sulphur Dell was a strange ballpark.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. "In most ballparks, the right field fence is about 330 feet from home plate. In Sulphur Dell, it was only 262 feet-which made it very easy to hit home runs, if you hit the ball to just the right spot."
- B. "A new ballpark called First Tennessee Park was built for The Sounds. It opened its door in 2015, and it is located right beside the state Capitol, on the spot of land Sulphur Dell once stood."
- C. "One of the greatest games ever played at the Dell was on July 11, 1916. A pitcher named Tom Rogers was on the mound for the Tennessee Volunteers."
- D. "A lot of great players came through Sulphur Dell, including Bill Dickey, Honus Wagner, and the sultan of swat himself: Babe Ruth. When Ruth came to town, the whole city was excited."

- 4. Based on the information in the passage, how did baseball fans feel about Sulphur Dell?
 - A. Baseball fans hated Sulphur Dell and almost never went to games there.
 - B. Baseball fans loved Sulphur Dell and were excited about going to games there.
 - C. Baseball fans did not care much about Sulphur Dell one way or the other.
 - D. Baseball fans did not like Sulphur Dell at first but started liking it more in the 1960s.
- 5. What is this passage mainly about?
 - A. what watching a baseball game at Sulphur Dell was like for Skip Nipper
 - B. what it means for a pitcher to throw a perfect game
 - C. what made Sulphur Dell a strange and special ballpark
 - D. how the right field fence in Sulphur Dell made it easy to hit home runs
- **6.** Read the following sentence: "By 1963, the old **ballpark** wasn't so popular anymore. They stopped playing baseball there, and eventually Sulphur Dell was torn down."

What does the word ballpark mean?

- A. a hill in the outfield of a baseball stadium
- B. a fence that is about 310 feet from home plate
- C. a baseball game in which no player gets a hit
- D. a place where baseball is played
- 7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Sulphur Dell was eventually torn down, _____ it had once been popular and loved by baseball fans.

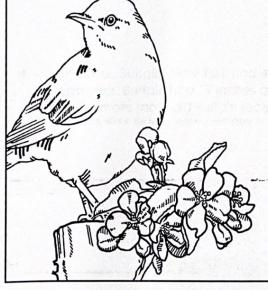
- A. although
- B. because
- C. before
- D. especially

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Find the words in the puzzle. Words are hidden \rightarrow , ψ , and \mathbf{a} .

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CRATER OF DIAMONDS

FAYETTEVILLE

FORT SMITH

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK

JONESBORO

LITTLE ROCK

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

MOCKINGBIRD

MOUNT MAGAZINE

OSAGE

QUAPAW

RAZORBACKS

REGNAT POPULUS

WHITE RIVER

answer:
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