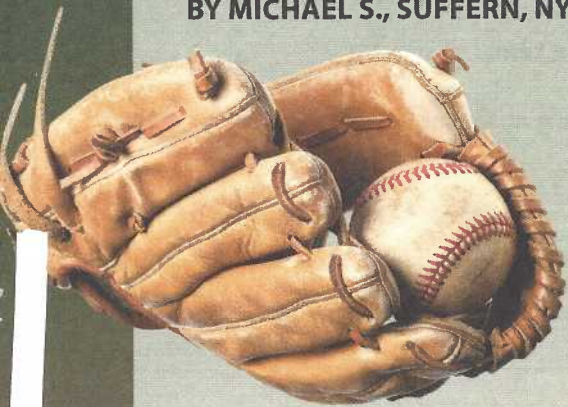


LUCKY DAY

BY MICHAEL S., SUFFERN, NY



I was leaning against the railing at Yankee Stadium in the right-field corner. Batting practice was on, and players were stretching out. The giant scoreboard was playing scenes of *Yankeeography*. It was sunny and the fresh-cut grass smelled great. There was a smell of beer and hot dogs, so there was no doubt I was at a Yankees game. My main goal was to get a ball for my sister.

I had to pay attention because baseballs were flying in our direction. As I looked at the batter taking practice swings, I heard the crack of the bat and a ball came in my direction. The crowd surrounding me watched the white dot grow larger as it approached. No one else had a glove, so I knew I had a good chance of catching the ball. I didn't take my eyes off it because it was coming so quickly. I could taste the anticipation and excitement. Then everyone ducked, and I stuck out my glove. The ball landed in it

with a large pop and I stared at it for a second before realizing what had happened.

People were shouting "Nice catch, kid," and patting me on the back. I was shocked and turned to make my way out of the crowd. I ran with the ball to my mom and sister.

My mom's jaw dropped when she saw my prize, and my sister started hugging me. My dad was in the bathroom and missed the whole thing, something he still regrets.

I will never forget catching a fly ball in the stands at Yankee Stadium. Before the game, when we were leaving our house, I had asked if it was really necessary to bring my glove. I'm glad I made the right decision. If only the Yankees had won their game, the day would have been perfect.

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notes

Glossary

railing: fence or barrier

Yankeeography: invented word meaning things related to the New York Yankees

ducked: suddenly lowered the head

stared: looked at intently

jaw: lower part of the mouth





Name:

Group:

Quick CHAT

- What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?
With a partner or in a group, share your stories and reach a consensus on which gesture was the nicest.
- Think of some of the most fascinating things people do to
 - 1) prevent bad luck
 - AND
 - 2) bring good luck
 With a partner or in a group, share your examples and reach a consensus on which is the most fascinating.
- *Somebody once ...*
- *I remember when my uncle ...*
- *My brother always carries a ...*
- *I played hockey with someone who would ...*

After Reading

ACTIVITY 4

- ★ Answer the following questions about the text.
 1. Why was the narrator "leaning against the railing at Yankee Stadium in the right-field corner"? (line 1)

 2. What odours does the narrator associate with being at a Major League baseball game?

 3. What was the narrator's first indication that a fly ball was coming in his direction?

 4. How did the narrator know that he was more likely than anyone else there to catch the ball?

 5. How did the narrator feel immediately after catching the ball?

 6. How did the narrator's mother and sister react when he showed them the ball?

 7. What "right decision" (line 48) is the narrator referring to?

 8. Why do you think the narrator wants to give the ball to his sister?

ACTIVITY 5

- ★ Was it luck that caused the narrator to catch the fly ball, or did he somehow make it happen? Justify your opinion with examples.

