

Name: _____

Foul Ball

by Kelly Hashway

Emmitt followed his father to row eleven, seats thirteen and fourteen. He was so busy taking in the sights at the baseball stadium that he wasn't watching where he was going. He bumped right into his father's back. "Sorry, Dad."

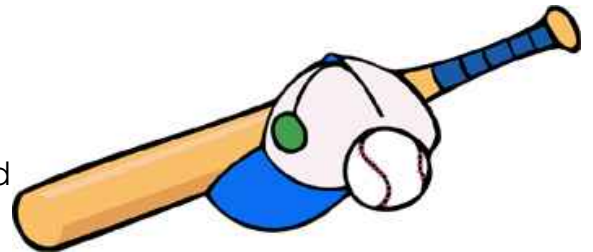


His father laughed. "No problem. Which seat do you want?"

Emmitt looked at the number thirteen on the back of the seat. Thirteen was supposedly an unlucky number, and he was going to need some luck if he was going to catch a foul ball. "I'll take fourteen." He squeezed past his dad and sat in seat fourteen.

As the players took the field, Emmitt snapped pictures for his scrapbook. He cheered through seven innings, did the wave, and even got a foam finger. The game was great. But it was missing one thing. A foul ball. Emmitt wanted nothing more than to catch a foul ball. He was hoping he might even get an autograph or two after the game, and what better thing to get autographed than a foul ball?

Every time a batter popped a ball into the air, Emmitt sprang to his feet. And each time, he'd groan and sit back down. He'd seen foul balls go over his head and fall short of his row. He squeezed his foam



finger when the next batter came to the plate. It was his favorite player - Harry "the Hammer" Watson. Emmitt stood up and cheered for him. He heard the crack of the bat and watched the ball sail into the air... right toward Emmitt! He couldn't believe it. He was going to catch a foul ball hit by Harry Watson.

"Daddy!" the little girl sitting next to Emmitt cried. "The ball! The ball! Catch it!" Emmitt saw the huge smile on the girl's face. She wanted the ball.

He turned his back to the ball just as it reached his seat. Emmitt leaned toward his dad and the ball dropped into the hands of the little girl's father.

"Why did you do that?" Emmitt's father asked. "Do you realize who hit that ball?"

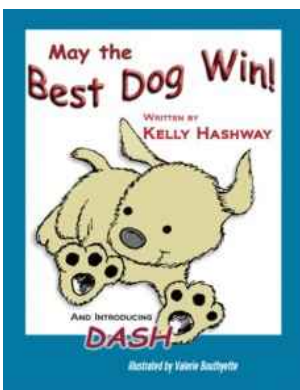
"Yeah, but look." Emmitt nodded to the little girl. She was hugging the ball.

"My first game and I got a foul ball," she said.

"I'm proud of you, Emmitt," his dad said, ruffling his hair. "That was a really nice thing to do."

Emmitt smiled as he watched the little girl. He didn't get his foul ball, but he felt as good as if he had.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

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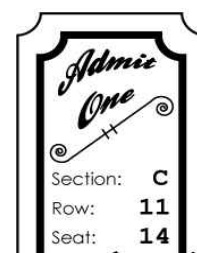
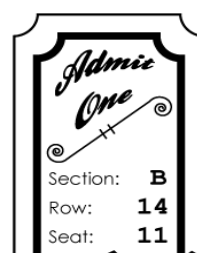
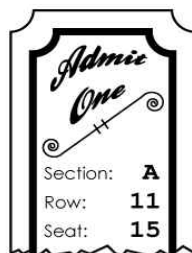
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1. When did Emmitt take pictures with his camera?
- a. during the seventh inning
 - b. when the foul ball came near his seat
 - c. after his favorite player scored a home run
 - d. when the players first came out on the field

2. Which ticket shows where the little girl in the story was sitting? (circle one)



Explain how you figured out the answer to the question above.

3. What happened when Emmitt's favorite player was up at bat?
- a. He hit a home run.
 - b. He hit a foul ball.
 - c. He struck out.
 - d. He gave Emmitt his bat.

4. Why was Emmitt's father proud of his son?

5. Which lesson can be learned from this story?
- a. Doing something nice for another person can make you feel good about yourself.
 - b. If you don't pay attention, you can miss out.
 - c. You should always do what your parents tell you to do.
 - d. Even the best players strike out.

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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.

_____ 1. sights

_____ 2. autograph

_____ 3. innings

_____ 4. batter

_____ 5. plate

_____ 6. sprang

_____ 7. nodded

_____ 8. crack

a. person who tries to hit the ball in a baseball game

b. flat marker over home base in baseball

c. interesting or exciting things to see

d. moved his or her head up and down

e. signature

f. loud sound

g. jumped

h. periods in a baseball game

◆ **Now try this:** Write three sentences on your own. In each sentence, use one of the vocabulary words above.

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In the story, "Foul Ball," Emmitt goes to a baseball game with his father and he wants to catch a foul ball. When one comes his way, he dodges it, so a little girl's father can grab it.

Think of a time when you've done something kind for someone else. Describe what you did and why you did it.



ANSWER KEY

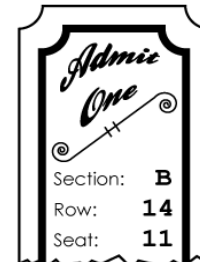
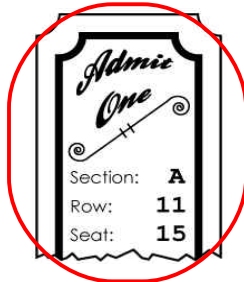
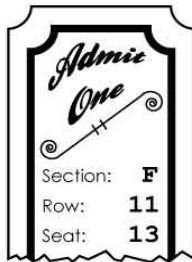
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1. When did Emmitt take pictures with his camera? **d**
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 - d. **when the players first came out on the field**

2. Which ticket shows where the little girl in the story was sitting? (circle one)



Explain how you figured out the answer to the question above.

Emmitt was sitting in Row 11, Seat 14. The little girl was sitting next to him, so she would have been in seat 15.

3. What happened when Emmitt's favorite player was up at bat? **b**
- a. He hit a home run.
 - b. **He hit a foul ball.**
 - c. He struck out.
 - d. He gave Emmitt his bat.

4. Why was Emmitt's father proud of his son?

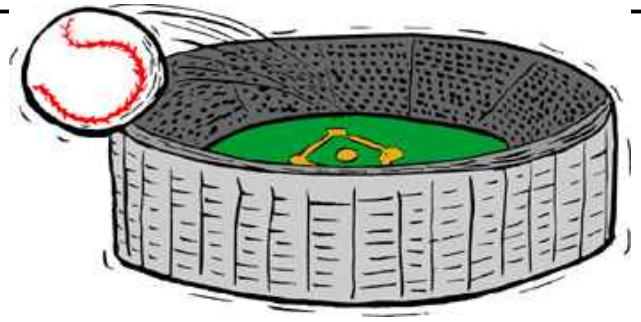
Emmitt chose not to catch the foul ball. Instead he wanted a little girl's father catch it for his daughter.

5. Which lesson can be learned from this story? **a**
- a. **Doing something nice for another person can make you feel good about yourself.**
 - b. If you don't pay attention, you can miss out.
 - c. You should always do what your parents tell you to do.
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