

## Go Team!

**Goal:** Encourage students to learn the importance of teamwork and reading in sports.

**BookSpring will provide:**

- Medals
- Sports trading cards
- Sports trivia picture game cards
- Sports jerseys
- Pom-poms; megaphones
- Medals, trophies
- Sports equipment (paddles/balls, bat, ball and mitt, mini sports balls)
- Water bottle, hat, flag banner
- Sports book



**Description of Activity:**

1. Encourage everyone who is coming to your Reading Celebration to dress in the uniform of their favorite sports team. If you have any sports enthusiasts or accomplished athletes on your campus, invite them to be guest readers.
2. Use the trivia game cards to see if the children can guess the sports shown.
3. Talk about the difference between an individual and a team sport. What does it take to be a good team member?
4. Ask the students how you get good at a sport? Talk about the value of practice. What does reading have to do with sports? Why is it important? What happens if you don't know or don't follow the rules?
5. Baseball is the featured sport in the read-aloud books. Briefly talk about baseball and its variations, T-ball, softball, etc. Get the children to tell you their experiences with baseball.
6. Sing "Take me out to the Ball Game" before reading! (Lyrics included on p.3) There is a great YouTube video with the original lyrics and photos from the early 20th century, sung by Edward Meeker. (1908!)

**Tech Connection:** <http://gws.ala.org/category/arts/sports>

This link to the American Library Association leads you to a whole page of Sports websites appropriate for children! It has the sites rated by age and interest. Share this link with your students and teachers for some fun options!

**Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:** K(21 A&B); 1st (27A&B); 2nd (28A&B); 3rd (110.14 29A); 4th (110.6 b1A,C &b3A); 5th (110.7 b1A &b3A &b8A,B,C)

## Suggested Read-Aloud Books

<p><b>Grade Level:</b> Pre-Kinder through First Grade</p>	<p><b>Suggested Read-Aloud:</b>  <i>Froggy Plays Soccer/Froggy Juega Al Fútbol</i>                      by Jonathan London  <i>Miss Nelson Has a Field Day</i>                      by Harry Allard and James Marshall  <i>JonRon</i>                      By Alex Rogriguez (Spanish)</p>
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**Discussion Points:**

1. One of the suggested books are is baseball, one is about soccer, and one is about football. Before reading, ask the students to brainstorm all the things they already know about baseball, soccer, and football. Write the facts on a white board or list them on chart paper.
2. During reading, ask the children to pay attention to the story and to raise their hand when they hear the story confirm one of their facts that is on the list.
3. *Froggy Plays Soccer*: Ask the children what are the three way Froggy’s dad says you can hit the ball? Ask them who is the only player that can touch the ball with their hands.
4. *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day*: Ask the children why they think the Horace B. Smedley School football team is so bad. Ask them what happened to the team that made them so good in the end. Explain that becoming good at a sport takes hard work and practice.
5. *JonRon*: Explain the term “JonRon” and how it sounds a little like “Home Run” in English. Show the picture/baseball card of Alex Rodriguez in the back of the book. Explain that this story is based on real life.

<p><b>Grade Level:</b> Second through Fifth Grade</p>	<p><b>Suggested Read-Aloud:</b>  <i>Satch and Me</i>                      By: Dan Gutman (Chapter 1)</p>
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**Discussion Points:**

1. The suggested book is about baseball. Before reading, ask the students to brainstorm all the things they already know about baseball. Write the facts on a white board or list them on chart paper.
2. Ask the students for their favorite team names and mascots. Ask them if there are any team names or mascots they don’t like. Read pages 1 and 2. Have the children ever heard of a team called The Exterminators?
3. Read pages 3 - 5. Ask What makes a good pitcher? Does it matter if Mutant didn’t have anything but a fastball? What other kinds of pitches might another pitcher throw? (curveball, fastball, slider, changeup, knuckle )
4. Read up to page 7 - “Never been more sure...” Ask the children to make predictions about what might happen next.

## Take Me out to the Ball Game!

Take me out to the ball game!

Take me out to the crowd.

Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks.

I don't care if I never come back.

It's just root, root, root for the home team.

If they don't win it's a shame!

For it's one, two, three strikes you're out

at the old ball game!

