

## Focus Lessons



### Lesson 1: Flashback

A **flashback** is an interruption in the chronological narrative of a story. It presents readers with a description of an event that occurred earlier than the events in the story. Authors often use flashbacks to provide background information about the characters and to deepen the reader's understanding of the present action.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Read the following passage and think about what the flashback adds to the telling of the story. Then answer the questions that follow it.*

1       Jonah looked up at the cloudless blue sky and smiled at his good fortune. Here he was, at opening day at Cooper's Field, his grandfather at his side. Maybe this would be the game a foul ball would sail through the sky, straight into his hand. Or maybe he'd get the starting pitcher's autograph. It seemed that any number of magical things might happen when he was with Papa Jack. There was just something about Papa Jack's presence that made the world seem wonderful.

2       As they joined the crowds that streamed through the door to the stadium, Jonah looked around, his mind swimming with memories. They'd gone to the first home game of the season every year since Jonah was six. These memories accumulated year after year, and he hoarded them like bright copper pennies. They helped him mark the years.

3       He remembered his first baseball game, when he was only six. Back then, he knew nothing about baseball, but he was thrilled simply to be there, a big boy with his grandfather. Everything was new and magical: the sugary swirls of cotton candy, the warm, salty hot dog Papa Jack placed in his hand. At one point, the crowd went wild, screaming and whistling and hooting and waving. Jonah remembered how he sat in the middle of all this confusion, a goofy grin on his face. To his six-year-old mind, it was crazy and strange to see all these grownups hollering like kids. He had no idea what happened, but he knew it was wonderful.

4       Now he was fourteen, and he knew baseball like the back of his hand. As Jonah sat down on the bleachers, he looked around with eyes that were eight years older. But that sense of wonder still hadn't left him.

