

## **Babe & Me: A Baseball Card Adventure**

Use the questions and activities that follow to get more out of reading *Babe & Me: A Baseball Card Adventure* by Dan Gutman.

1. How is Joe Stoshack able to travel through time?
2. What does Joe want to learn by visiting the third game of the 1932 World Series?
3. At the World Series, why does Mr. Stoshack get arrested? What is he trying to accomplish?
4. While on the train to Chicago, Joe is thrilled to meet another baseball player, Lou Gehrig. What is Gehrig like, and how does he act toward Joe?
5. What is Mr. Stoshack's three-part plan for making money while visiting the year 1932?
6. Describe the scene when Joe and his father first glimpse Babe Ruth. What is Babe like, and how does the crowd respond to him?
7. What are some of the reasons that Joe is frustrated with his father when the story begins?
8. Joe and his father are surprised by many of the differences between 1932 and their own time. What do they notice that is unusual or different?
9. Babe Ruth keeps telling Joe that he should be thankful he has such a great dad. What do we learn about Babe's own father?
10. Joe's mother has forbidden him to do any more time travel, and she doesn't trust Joe's father. Why then do you think she agrees to let Joe's father take Joe to the year 1932?
11. In this story, Babe Ruth is shown to be a complicated character with both positive and negative character traits. Make a table with two columns labeled "positive traits" and "negative traits" and list as many of each as you can.
12. Copies of real black-and-white photographs in this book help to tell the story of Joe Stoshack's adventure in 1932. What did these photos add to your reading of the story? Why do you think these photos were included in the book?
13. Through the course of the story, how does Joe's relationship with his dad begin to change? What does he learn about his dad? Has his father changed at all?

14. To whom would you recommend this book? Would someone who isn't usually interested in baseball or history appreciate this book? Write a recommendation explaining who you think would enjoy *Babe & Me*.
15. At the end of the story, Joe makes the decision to give up the baseball his father managed to find—the ball Babe Ruth hit to make the most famous home run in history. Joe could have taken the ball back to the present as a memento of his adventure and possibly even sold it to make money, but instead he gave it away to some kids playing on the street. Do you think he made the right decision? In Joe's place, what would you have done?

*Note: These literature circle questions are keyed to Bloom's Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-6; Application: 7-8; Analysis: 9-11; Synthesis: 12-13; Evaluation: 14-15.*

### **Activities**

1. If you could travel to another time and place, where would you like to go? What would you hope to see there? Joe used his baseball cards to travel to 1932; use your imagination to come up with a way you would travel to and from your destination.
2. Make an illustrated map showing the places in New York City and Chicago that Joe travels to in 1932. You should use the photographs in the book as models for some of your drawings and use your imagination to re-create the others. You might want to include the following: Hooverville, the Ansonia Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Grand Central Station, and Wrigley Field.
3. Imagine that after their trip to 1932, Joe's dad wrote his son a note to express his thoughts and feelings about his son and their time travel experience. What would he say? How would he explain his past behavior, and would he promise to act differently in the future? Write a letter from Mr. Stoshack's point of view to his son Joe.

### **Other Books by This Author:**

*Miss Daisy Is Crazy!* (HarperCollins, 2004)

*Mr. Klutz Is Nuts!* (HarperCollins, 2004)

*Mrs. Roopy Is Loopy!* (HarperCollins, 2004)

*The Million Dollar Shot* (Hyperion, 2003)

*The Million Dollar Kick* (Hyperion, 2001)

*Babe & Me* (HarperCollins, 2000)

*The Catcher Who Shocked The World* (Scholastic, 1997)

*The Green Monster in Left Field* (Scholastic, 1997)

*Honus & Me* (HarperCollins, 1997)

*The Pitcher Who Went Out of His Mind* (Scholastic, 1997)

*The Shortstop Who Knew Too Much* (Scholastic, 1997)

*The Kid Who Ran For President* (Scholastic, 1996)

**For a complete list of books by Dan Gutman, visit his Web site: [www.dangutman.com](http://www.dangutman.com)**