

Louis Sockalexis *Native American Baseball Pioneer*

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Sports, Perseverance, American Indian History

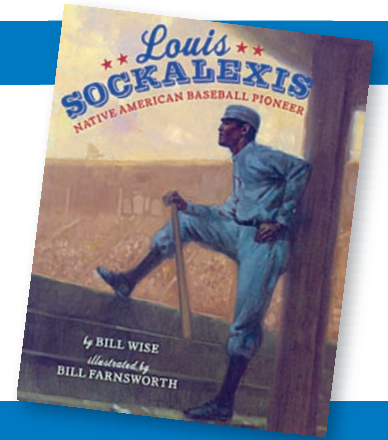
Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: This book tells the story of Louis Sockalexis, one of the first American Indian players in Major League Baseball.

Author: Bill Wise

Illustrator:
Bill Farnsworth

Content Connections:
Math, Social Studies,
Art



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: What can your students tell about the book based on the front and back covers and the title? How do we know that this is not a story about modern-day baseball? What does it mean to be a “pioneer”?

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk through the book before reading. Have students make predictions about the characters and the plot based on the pictures alone. If any of your students play or know a lot about baseball, ask if they can tell what’s happening in the baseball pictures.

Prior Knowledge: Read the endnotes before teaching the book. Consider drawing comparisons to Jackie

Robinson, the black player who broke the Major League Baseball color line in 1947, or Elizabeth Stroud, who became the first female professional player in 1898 under the pseudonym Lizzie Arlington.

Vocabulary: doffed, heritage, spectators, scoffed, respect

Purpose for Reading: Students can practice using their inner voices to ask questions and talk to the text. Provide sticky notes or reading response journals for recording. “As we read, think about questions or comments you have about the story or for the author. Write them down as they pop into your head. We will discuss them after reading.”

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ How did Louis learn about baseball?
- ◆ What are some of the ways he showed respect for his heritage?

- ◆ Why was playing baseball such a challenge for Louis?
- ◆ How did Louis respond to the challenge?
- ◆ How did his tribe show their support?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Revisit the purpose: “When good readers read, they talk to the text. What types of questions or comments did you think of while we were reading?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: “Was this story happy or sad? Give examples from the text to support your answer.” “Do you think athletes today face prejudice? Give examples from the real world.” “What questions would you want to ask Louis?” “Have you ever wanted to do something other people said you couldn’t? Why? What happened?”

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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