

## Lesson Plan

### Worth the Wait?

**Book:** *Gerrit Cole: Baseball Star*

**Series:** Biggest Names in Sports

**Level:** Navigator

### Objective

To help students practice making inferences based on details from a text, both in a group discussion and in writing.

### Supplies

- *Gerrit Cole: Baseball Star* book
- Pencils and paper

### Before the Activity

Read Chapter 2 (“Bringing the Heat”) of the *Gerrit Cole: Baseball Star* book as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own.

### Activity

Many young athletes would jump at the opportunity to play professional sports, especially for their favorite team. But Gerrit Cole chose to take a longer route. Chapter 2 (“Bringing the Heat”) of the *Gerrit Cole* book describes Cole’s high school career and follows him through college, into the minor leagues, and finally to Major League Baseball. Discuss the following questions as a class:

- What helped Gerrit Cole attract the attention of the New York Yankees while he was in high school? (Answer: He could pitch a 100-mile-per-hour fastball.)
- What could have been some positive results of joining the Yankees straight out of high school? (Answers: The Yankees were his favorite team. They offered him a lot of money.)
- Do you think it was hard for Cole to say no to the New York Yankees? Why? (Sample Answer: Yes, it probably was. They were his dream team.)
- Why do you think he decided to stick with his plan to attend college? (Sample Answer: He and his family may have felt that getting an education was important.)
- Based on the rest of the chapter’s description about Cole’s experience at college, in the minor leagues, and with the Pittsburgh Pirates, do you think he made a good choice? Why or why not? (Answers will vary.)

After the discussion, have students write a one-page essay describing a time when they (or their family) chose to give something up, not do something, or make a difficult decision. They should explain why they made the choice they did and what happened afterward. Invite one or two volunteers to read their essays out loud.

### **Evaluation**

Could students answer the discussion questions based on details from the text? Could they connect those details to their own ideas and experiences, both in the discussion and in writing?

### **Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 6 (RI 6.1, 6.3), and writing standards, grade 6 (W 6.4).