

FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. What do you think is Cade Cunningham's most useful skill? Why?
3. Which team did Oklahoma State defeat in the semifinals of the 2021 Big 12 tournament?
 - A. Oklahoma
 - B. Baylor
 - C. Texas
4. How did playing quarterback help Cunningham become a better point guard?
 - A. It helped him become a better defender.
 - B. It helped him become a better shooter.
 - C. It helped him keep track of teammates and make good passes.

5. What does **thrived** mean in the *Cade Cunningham: Basketball Star* book?

*Cade **thrived** at his new school. He improved his jump shot. He also impressed scouts with his defense.*

- A. grew and succeeded
- B. struggled and lost
- C. avoided playing

6. What does **adjusted** mean in the *Cade Cunningham: Basketball Star* book?

*Moving to the NBA was a big step. Cunningham scored only two points in his first game. But he **adjusted** quickly. Soon, he recorded his first NBA triple-double.*

- A. became confused
- B. stayed the exact same
- C. got used to something

Answer Key for Cade Cunningham: Basketball Star

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. C

FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR

Jayden Daniels: Football Star

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 3.

2. What do you think is Jayden Daniels's biggest strength as a quarterback? Why?

3. Which team did the Commanders beat in Daniels's first NFL playoff game?
 - A. Atlanta Falcons
 - B. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
 - C. Philadelphia Eagles

4. What helped Jayden Daniels win the Heisman Trophy in 2023?
 - A. He led LSU to a championship.
 - B. He led the country in total yards.
 - C. He often turned the ball over.

5. What does **clinched** mean in the *Jayden Daniels: Football Star* book?

*The win **clinched** Washington's spot in the playoffs. Daniels had led the Commanders to their first postseason appearance in four years.*

- A. made rare or unlikely
- B. blocked or removed
- C. assured or made certain

6. What does **dramatic** mean in the *Jayden Daniels: Football Star* book?

*Jayden Daniels was used to **dramatic** finishes. In 2024, the Commanders won five games on the final play.*

- A. sad
- B. exciting
- C. boring

Answer Key for Jayden Daniels: Football Star

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. B

FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR **Elly De La Cruz: Baseball Star**

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 2.

2. What do you think is Elly De La Cruz's best skill? Why?

3. When did the Reds bring De La Cruz up to the majors?
 - A. 2019
 - B. 2021
 - C. 2023

4. How did joining a baseball academy help Elly when he was 10 years old?
 - A. He could focus less on speed.
 - B. He could practice more.
 - C. He could see his family more.

5. What does **canceled** mean in the *Elly De La Cruz: Baseball Star* book?

*In 2020, De La Cruz didn't get to play at all. The COVID-19 pandemic spread around the world. To keep people safe, the minor leagues **canceled** their seasons.*

- A. made something longer
- B. decided not to play
- C. started playing later

6. What does **errors** mean in the *Elly De La Cruz: Baseball Star* book?

*He led the majors with 29 **errors**. On offense, De La Cruz made up for his mistakes.*

- A. great plays
- B. hard-hit balls
- C. mistakes in the field

Answer Key for Elly De La Cruz: Baseball Star

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. C

FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR **Lamar Jackson: Football Star**

1. Write a few sentences explaining the main ideas of Chapter 2.

2. Why do you think Lamar Jackson was determined to keep playing quarterback instead of becoming a receiver?

3. How old was Jackson when he won the Heisman Trophy?
 - A. 18 years old
 - B. 19 years old
 - C. 20 years old

4. Why did the Ravens give Jackson more and more freedom on the field?
 - A. The coaches were unsure of his strengths and weaknesses.
 - B. He never followed the playbook anyway.
 - C. They trusted he would make good decisions.

5. What does **scanned** mean in the *Lamar Jackson: Football Star* book?

*Lamar Jackson took the snap and **scanned** the field. His Baltimore Ravens faced second-and-five. The quarterback quickly spotted an open receiver.*

- A. made a recording
- B. ran quickly
- C. looked around

6. What does **perfectionist** mean in the *Lamar Jackson: Football Star* book?

*He was also a **perfectionist**. He practiced until he got things just right.*

- A. someone who works hard to do everything well
- B. someone who can only perform when conditions are right
- C. someone who struggles to do a good job

Answer Key for Lamar Jackson: Football Star

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A

FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR

Lionel Messi: Soccer Star

- 1.** Write a few sentences explaining the main ideas of Chapter 3.

- 2.** Why do you think winning the World Cup was so important to Lionel Messi?

- 3.** When did Messi win his second World Cup Golden Ball?
 - A.** 2009
 - B.** 2014
 - C.** 2022

- 4.** Why did Messi decide to move to Spain and join Barcelona?
 - A.** The club offered to pay for his medical treatments.
 - B.** He had always wanted to live in Barcelona.
 - C.** His all-time favorite player was on the team.

5. What does **unmatched** mean in the *Lionel Messi: Soccer Star* book?

*It was loaded with talented young players. Even among them, Leo shined. His skill with the ball was **unmatched**.*

- A. weaker than many
- B. average in talent
- C. better than all others

6. What does **expertly** mean in the *Lionel Messi: Soccer Star* book?

*Barcelona mastered a playing style called “tiki-taka.” The players moved **expertly** around the field.*

- A. without teamwork
- B. for the first time
- C. with great skill

Answer Key for Lionel Messi: Soccer Star

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. C

FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR

Puka Nacua: Football Star

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 3.

2. Would you like to play wide receiver? Why or why not?

3. Why did Puka Nacua leave Washington and go to BYU?

A. He wanted to play quarterback.

B. He wanted to be closer to his family.

C. He wanted to make more money.

4. Why was Nacua taken so late in the NFL Draft?

A. Teams thought he wasn't fast enough.

B. Teams thought he was too short.

C. Teams thought he wanted to play professional baseball.

5. What does **recruited** mean in the *Puka Nacua: Football Star* book?

*Many colleges **recruited** Puka. He spent his first two years at the University of Washington.*

- A. ignored someone
- B. turned someone down
- C. invited someone to join

6. What does **visualization** mean in the *Puka Nacua: Football Star* book?

*Before games, Nacua practices **visualization**. He imagines playing well that day. He closes his eyes and watches himself perform.*

- A. imagining a result to help make it happen
- B. studying people's past mistakes
- C. playing well during a game

Answer Key for Puka Nacua: Football Star

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. A

FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR

Paul Skenes: Baseball Star

- 1.** Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 3.

- 2.** Do you think Paul Skenes should have finished college? Why or why not?

- 3.** When did Paul Skenes begin playing in the majors?
 - A.** 2022
 - B.** 2023
 - C.** 2024

- 4.** Why did Skenes want to play at LSU?
 - A.** He didn't want to play baseball anymore.
 - B.** The Air Force asked him to leave.
 - C.** He wanted to pitch against better hitters.

5. What does **passion** mean in the *Paul Skenes: Baseball Star* book?

*Baseball wasn't Paul's only **passion**. He also wanted to join the US military. Paul hoped to be a fighter jet pilot.*

- A. a difficult job
- B. a strong interest
- C. a type of sport

6. What does **transferred** mean in the *Paul Skenes: Baseball Star* book?

*After his sophomore year, Skenes made a difficult decision. He left the US Air Force Academy. He **transferred** to Louisiana State University (LSU).*

- A. moved to a new school
- B. stopped playing a game
- C. flew a fighter jet

Answer Key for Paul Skenes: Baseball Star

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. A

FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR
**Bobby Witt Jr.:
Baseball Star**

1. Write a few sentences explaining the main ideas of Chapter 3.

2. What do you think Bobby Witt Jr.'s most impressive skill is? Why?

3. Against which team did Witt hit an inside-the-park home run in 2023?
 - A. Minnesota Twins
 - B. Texas Rangers
 - C. Seattle Mariners

4. How many minor league teams did Witt play on?
 - A. two
 - B. three
 - C. four

5. What does **versatile** mean in the *Bobby Witt Jr.: Baseball Star* book?

*He was a **versatile** fielder, too. Coaches thought he could play just about any position in the majors.*

- A. not able to learn or change
- B. able to do only one thing
- C. able to do many different things

6. What does **excelled** mean in the *Bobby Witt Jr.: Baseball Star* book?

*Witt **excelled** in Triple A, too. He made good decisions at the plate. He showed off his powerful swing.*

- A. performed well
- B. decided something
- C. struggled

Answer Key for Bobby Witt Jr.: Baseball Star

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. A