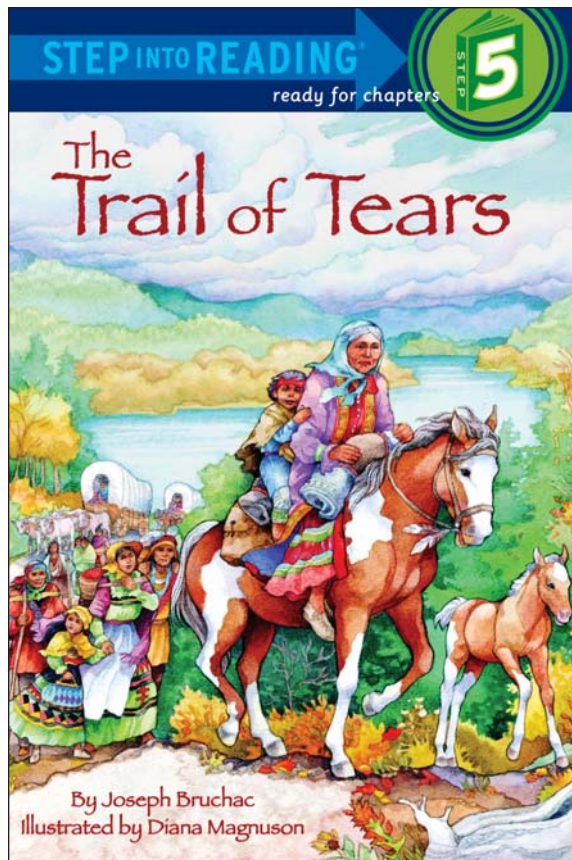




Teachers Guide

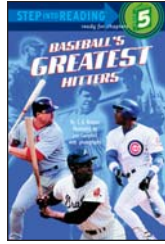


Pre-Reading Activity for *The Trail of Tears*

Read the back of the book to the students while letting them see the front cover. Ask them: In what time period does this book take place? How was America different back then? Why do you think the Cherokee People are leaving? What does it mean when someone “has no choice”?

Have the class brainstorm for the following chart before reading *The Trail of Tears*.

American Life in the 1800s	American Life Now



Vocabulary/Word Study

RECOGNIZING NOUNS AND VERBS: Create word cards from index cards, using the following words from *The Trail of Tears*. Have students sort the words into two piles, one for nouns and one for verbs. Word list: *October, looking, Tennessee, wagons, packing, belongings, blankets, worry, remembers, farms, houses, built, Cherokee Nation, ask, prayer, urge, thunder, cloud, sky, fear, colonist, flew, Great Smoky Mountains, students, shows, town, leaders, settlers, traded, leaders, visit, king, British, fighting, land, protect, live, peace, capital, sawmills, herds, invented, invention, write, creating, alphabet, taught, write, language, read, phoenix.*

Working in pairs, have students locate and copy a list of all the verbs on pages 1–3 of *Baseball's Greatest Hitters* by S. A. Kramer. Then sort the list into active verbs or passive verbs. Discuss which ones create a picture in the reader's mind. Which verbs should writers try to use more often? Why?

Comprehension

Have students fill out a graph for the events in each story they read in **Step 5**. List major events in the story and then rate their importance. They can use five for the highest and one for the lowest.

SAMPLE GRAPH

5							
4							
3							
2							
1							
Event:							
Characters Involved:							

As students read the texts from **Step 5**, have them fill out a chart commenting on comprehension and interest before summarizing the book.

SAMPLE CHART

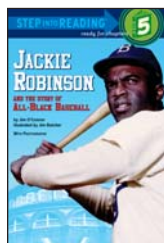
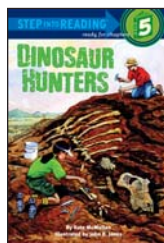
Title:	Author:	
Pages read:	Comprehension: Easy Fine Difficult	Interest Rate: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Summary (less than four sentences):		

Fluency

Reading aloud, even to older more accomplished readers, is the best way to impact fluency and comprehension. Read from a wide variety of children's literature each day and often from stories that are above their current independent comprehension level. This stretches their ability to understand complex sentences and gives interaction with vocabulary they cannot yet decode themselves. After read-aloud time discuss what good readers do to understand what they are reading and how adding expression aids in comprehension.

Curriculum Connections

HISTORY: After reading *The Trail of Tears*, have the class research the history of another Native American tribe and create a time line about what you learned. Be sure to show the impact of the arrival of the colonists and westward expansion.



SCIENCE: Discuss with the class that scientists create questions, or hypotheses, and then seek out facts or physical proof to support their ideas.

As students read *Dinosaur Hunters*, have them create a list of questions that each scientist (or questioner) in the book asked about dinosaurs and their bones and what each one discovered. Once they are finished, have students write down a question or puzzle that they would like to explore.



Illustration © 2004 by Diana Magnusson

MATH: Read *Baseball's Greatest Hitters* and *Jackie Robinson and the Story of All-Black Baseball*. Baseball is filled with mathematics. Have students find out what creates a player's average and how it is calculated. Share the baseball statistics in a newspaper and ask students the following questions: Which player had the best game? How do you know? Which team has the best overall average?



Book List

Baseball's Greatest Hitters

978-0-375-80583-7 (0-375-80583-4)

Biography & Autobiography • Sports

Baseball's Best: Five True Stories

978-0-394-80983-0 (0-394-80983-1)

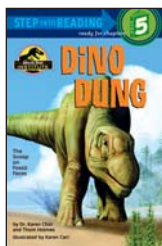
Sports • Biography & Autobiography

Basketball's Greatest Players

978-0-679-88112-4 (0-679-88112-3)

GLB: 978-0-679-98112-1 (0-679-98112-8)

Sports • Nonfiction • Biography & Autobiography



Dino Dung

978-0-375-82702-0 (0-375-82702-1)

GLB: 978-0-375-92702-7 (0-375-92702-6)

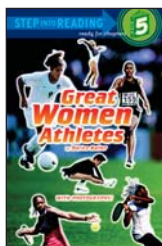
Science & Nature • Reluctant Readers • Boy Interest • Animals/Nonfiction • Dinosaurs

Dinosaur Hunters

978-0-375-82450-0 (0-375-82450-2)

GLB: 978-0-375-92450-7 (0-375-92450-7)

Dinosaurs • Science & Nature • Nonfiction



Great Women Athletes

978-0-375-81186-9 (0-375-81186-9)

Girl Interest • Biography & Autobiography
Sports

Jackie Robinson and the Story of All-Black Baseball

978-0-394-82456-7 (0-394-82456-3)

African/African American Interest • Sports
Determination • Black History Month • Biography & Autobiography

Maximum Triceratops

978-0-375-82304-6 (0-375-82304-2)

Nonfiction • Dinosaurs

Moonwalk

978-0-394-82457-4 (0-394-82457-1)

Space • Nonfiction • History & Social Studies

Quakes!

978-0-679-86945-0 (0-679-86945-X)

Science & Nature • Nonfiction

Raptor Pack

978-0-375-82303-9 (0-375-82303-4)

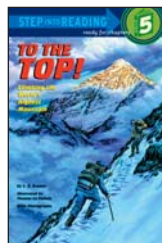
GLB: 978-0-375-92303-6 (0-375-92303-9)

Nonfiction • Dinosaurs

T. Rex: Hunter or Scavenger?

978-0-375-81297-2 (0-375-81297-0)

Nonfiction • Dinosaurs



To the Top!

978-0-679-83885-2 (0-679-83885-6)

Sports • Nonfiction • Biography & Autobiography
Adventure

The Trail of Tears

978-0-679-89052-2 (0-679-89052-1)

Nonfiction • Native American Interest • History & Social Studies • Courage & Honor • War

The Trojan Horse:

How the Greeks Won the War

978-0-394-89674-8 (0-394-89674-2)

History & Social Studies • Ancient Worlds • War

Star Wars

Obi-Wan's Foe

978-0-375-82609-2 (0-375-82609-2)

GLB: 978-0-375-92609-9 (0-375-92609-7)