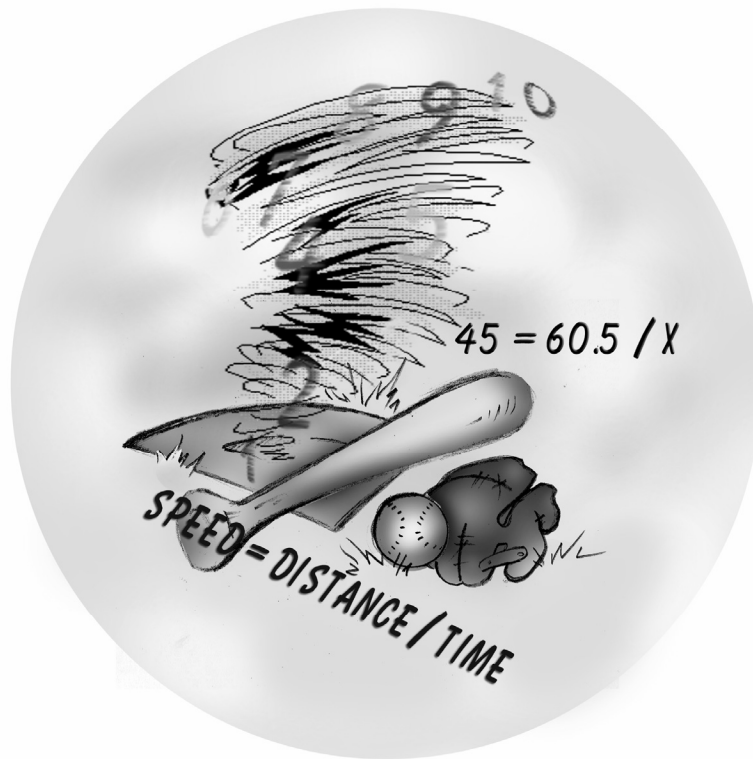


# THE BASEBALL EQUATION



## Supplemental Activity Workbook

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# VOCABULARY

**Directions:** Use the word bank below to complete the definition.

optimistic	pressure	Thomas Edison	applaud	pointers	alleviate	struggle
equation	concentrate	universal	mentor	astonished	stress	jumbled

1. \_\_\_\_\_ expecting everything to come out all right; hopeful
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to make an improvement by lessening physical or emotional pain
3. \_\_\_\_\_ an inventor from the United States who created the light bulb
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a statement of the equality of two mathematical expressions
5. \_\_\_\_\_ useful hints; tips
6. \_\_\_\_\_ to fix one's efforts, or attention on one thing
7. \_\_\_\_\_ to make a great effort to overcome someone or something
8. \_\_\_\_\_ present or existing everywhere or under all conditions
9. \_\_\_\_\_ physical or emotional strain
10. \_\_\_\_\_ the trouble or burden of matters demanding attention
11. \_\_\_\_\_ to show approval especially by clapping the hands
12. \_\_\_\_\_ stricken with sudden wonder or surprise
13. \_\_\_\_\_ mixed in a confused mass
14. \_\_\_\_\_ a wise and faithful advisor or teacher

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# BASES ARE LOADED...

The bases are loaded with two outs, and the last batter is up with two strikes. Complete the following questions about The Baseball Equation the best you can and you hit a homerun to win the game!

**Directions:** The following statements are quotes from the story. See if you can identify who said what and what was going on in the story when the quote was said. Try not to look back at the story. See how much you remember.

1. "I'm proud of you for trying so hard. Everyone has weaknesses, but you just have to keep practicing. Remember practice makes perfect!" Who said it? \_\_\_\_\_

What was going on? \_\_\_\_\_

2. "Of course you did. You're the straight 'A' guy." Who said it? \_\_\_\_\_

What was going on? \_\_\_\_\_

3. "Well, let's see if we can try to connect math, something you're good at, and baseball, something you're not so good at." Who said it? \_\_\_\_\_

What was going on? \_\_\_\_\_

4. "I just need to practice. I want to be able to **really** play someday."

Who said it? \_\_\_\_\_

What was going on? \_\_\_\_\_

5. "I've been practicing ever since I was old enough to hold a bat. My whole family plays baseball, so I have played a lot." Who said it? \_\_\_\_\_

What was going on? \_\_\_\_\_

6. "Tyler, just have fun! You are trying your best, and that's all that matters, right?"

Who said it? \_\_\_\_\_

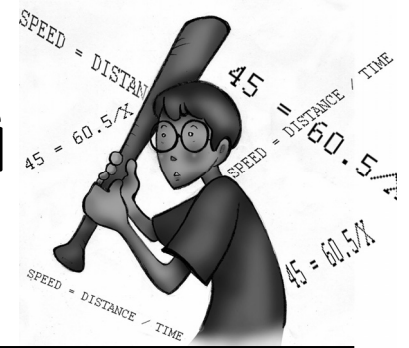
What was going on? \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# THE MATH EQUATION

Tyler is stressed out! Help him figure out these math equations before class starts!



1. 
$$\begin{array}{r} 230 \\ +701 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

4.  $18 \div 3 = \underline{\quad}$

7.  $140 = 70 + u$

2. 
$$\begin{array}{r} 328 \\ +348 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

5.  $60 \div 12 = \underline{\quad}$

8.  $39 = w + 17$

3. 
$$\begin{array}{r} 293 \\ +281 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

6.  $33 \div 7 = \underline{\quad}$

9.  $h - 35 = 58$

10. Solve the equation:  $125 = b + 79$

11. Find the greatest common factor of the set of numbers: 85, 45, and 30

12. Express the phrase as an algebraic expression:  
7 less than the difference of a number  $c$  and 42

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

No matter who you are, there is at least one person you know who has helped to shape you into who you are today! For Tyler in The Baseball Equation, Mr. Lagunas impacted the way Tyler thought about baseball. Who is that person in your life?

**Directions:** In the box below, draw the person who has been the most influential in your life. Then, on the lines below your picture, write a description about him or her and explain how he or she has impacted you. Continue writing on the back of this paper if necessary.



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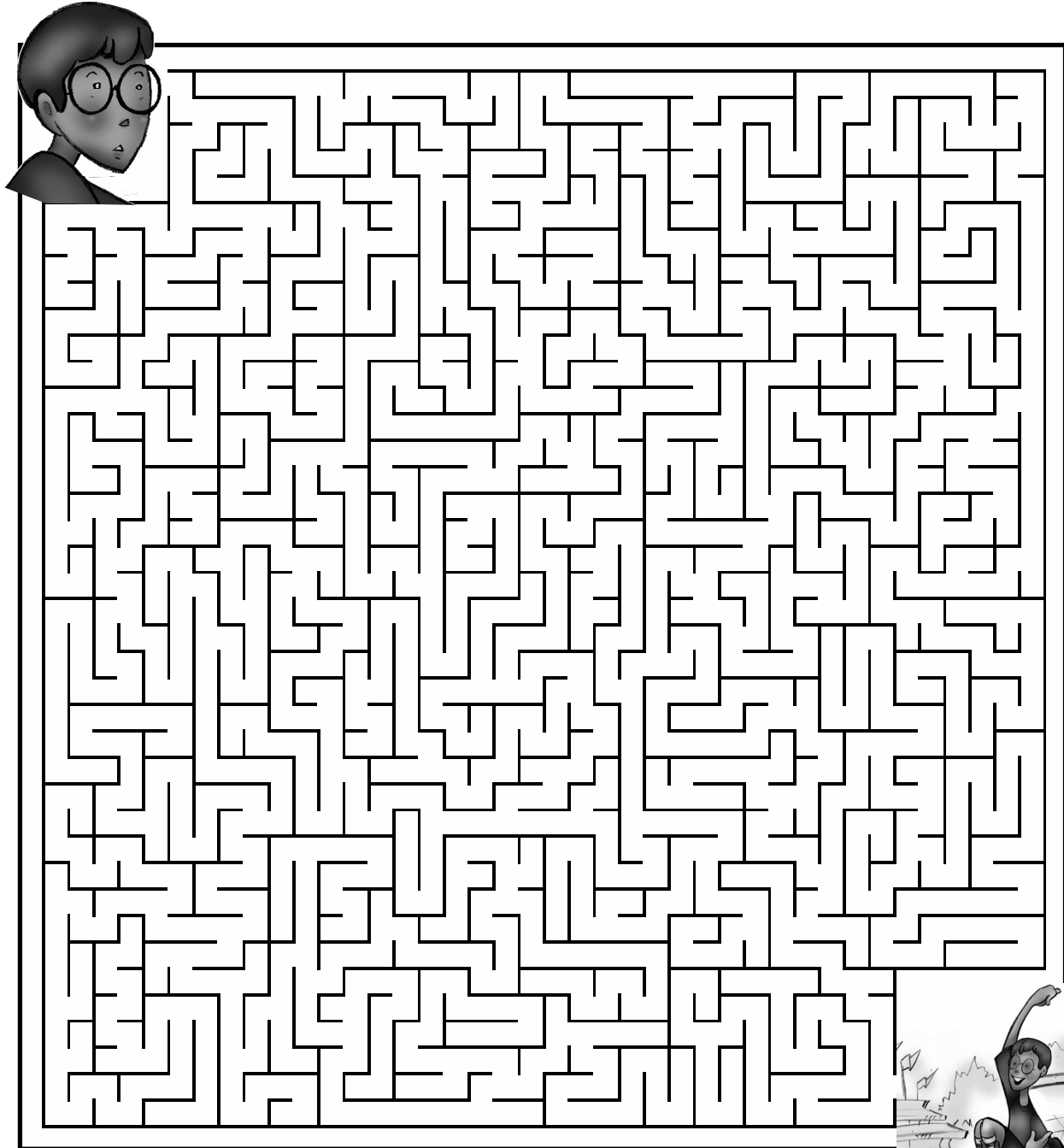
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# CHAMPIONSHIP MAZE

Tyler has to get to the championship baseball game, but he can't remember how to get to the baseball field. Help Tyler get to the field so that he can hit some home runs!

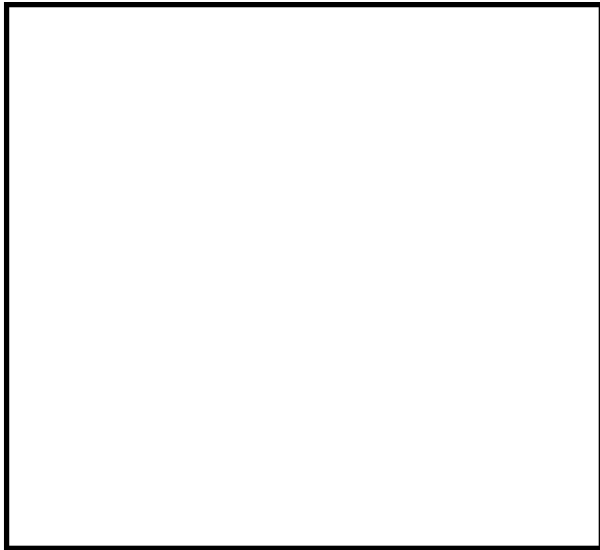


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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# THE LOOK OF A BASEBALL PLAYER

**Directions:** At home, look up a famous softball or baseball player in history on the Internet or in a book. Remember that your baseball player can be a man or a woman. The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was founded in 1943, and women have participated in the sport at many ages and levels for years. Find a picture of the player you choose, print it out, and paste it in the box below. Look up some interesting facts about your player. On the lines below, use complete sentences to provide a description of the player you research. For example, find out what team he or she currently plays for or has played for in the past, and how many homeruns he or she has hit.



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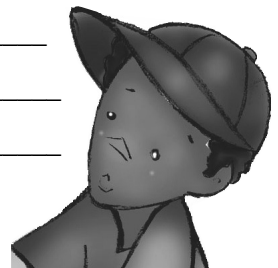
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# STRESSED Out!

Stress is the physical or emotional strain a person feels when facing a challenging situation. Stress can be a part of every day life, and success or failure in handling stressful situations can have a great effect on oneself and others. Mild cases of stress can usually be alleviated with exercise or self reflection. The causes of high levels of stress will be more difficult to work through.



Sometimes, a change of surroundings or living situation may help in alleviating stress.

In the story, Tyler is stressed out by the game of baseball. When other kids make fun of him, it lowers his self esteem and he begins to turn away from playing baseball. Think about how Tyler got through his stressful situation, and how it changed the way he felt about baseball. What kinds of stressful situations do you face and how do you handle them?

**Directions:** Use the columns below to fill in things that stress you out and how you deal with them.

What stresses me out...	How I alleviate the stress...
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# FAMILY TREASURES

No matter what your family background may be, there are always family treasures that are passed down from generation to generation. In The Baseball Equation, Tyler accidentally stumbles across his dad's old baseball bat. He uses the baseball bat that he finds to hit a homerun in his game! Is there any possession in your family that was passed down from someone else? If so, describe what it is in detail. If you do not know of anything, what is something that you have right now that you would pass down to your kids when you have a family?



**Directions:** Use complete sentences to answer the questions above.

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# Discussion Prompt

## For Teacher Use Only

In the story, Tyler overcomes one of his major weaknesses by having patience and taking time to learn how to play baseball with numbers and equations. Prompt your students to discuss any weaknesses that they may need to overcome.

Create a class discussion, first about Tyler and how he might have felt during his baseball trials and errors. Here are some question suggestions:

- How do you think Tyler felt when the other students were making fun of him because he could not play baseball very well?
- What do you think made Tyler decide to toughen-up and face his fear of being humiliated?
- How do you think Tyler felt after hitting a homerun for the first time?

Next, have the students write about their own personal experiences when they have overcome some weaknesses of their own. If some students cannot think of an occasion or have not had an experience with that yet, have them write about a weakness that they plan to overcome and how they are going to defeat it.

Each response should be about a page in length. Have the students write their experiences as if someone else would be reading about them as a story. Encourage them to be creative! However, be careful that they do not exaggerate too much, so the exercise maintains its practical learning.



# THE BASEBALL EQUATION

## ANSWER KEY

### For Teacher Use Only

#### Vocabulary

1. optimistic
2. alleviate
3. Thomas Edison
4. equation
5. pointers
6. concentrate
7. struggle
8. universal
9. stress
10. pressure
11. applaud
12. astonished
13. jumbled
14. mentor

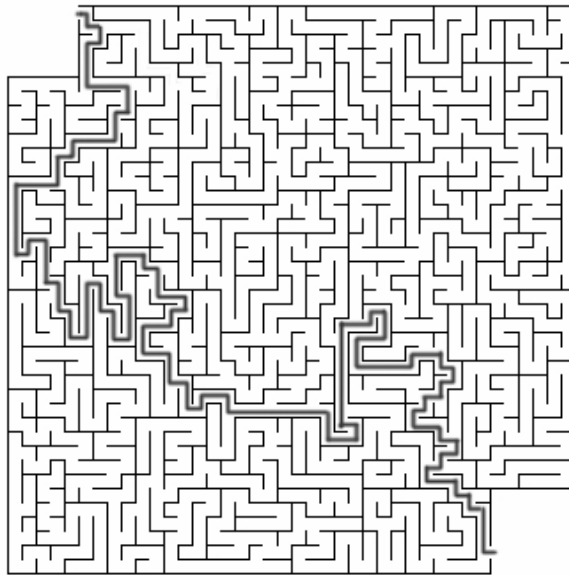
#### Bases are loaded..

1. Mrs. Thompson
2. Tyler's mom
3. Mr. Lagunas
4. Tyler
5. Joey
6. Jessica

#### The Math Equation

1. 931
2. 676
3. 574
4. 6
5. 5
6.  $4R5$  or  $4.714$
7.  $u = 70$
8.  $w = 22$
9.  $h = 93$
10.  $b = 46$
11.  $GCF = 5$
12.  $(c - 42) - 7$

#### Championship Maze



#### Possible Discussion Prompts

In the story, Tyler overcomes one of his major weaknesses by having patience and taking time to learn how to play baseball with numbers and equations. Prompt your students to discuss any weaknesses that they may need to overcome.

Create a class discussion, first about Tyler and how he might have felt during his baseball trials and errors. Here are some question suggestions:

- How do you think Tyler felt when the other students were making fun of him because he could not play baseball very well?
- How do you think Tyler felt after hitting a homerun for the first time?

Next, have the students write about their own personal experiences when they have overcome some weaknesses of their own. If some students cannot think of an occasion or have not had an experience with that yet, have them write about a weakness that they plan to overcome and how they are going to defeat it.



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