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WHO STOLE THE BASES?

The Story in Brief

The Dodgers and Pirates are two grade-school baseball teams. The Dodgers practice hard and play fair. The Pirates use dirty tricks whenever they can.

One afternoon, the Dodgers discover that their bases are missing. Brett is the team's catcher. He hates the Pirates. He believes that they took the bases. He wants to go beat them up. But his friends Dwight, Marty, and José convince him to wait. They decide to see if they can find out who stole the bases.

Brett's sisters offer to "help" him. They claim that the sister of one of the Pirates, Randell, told them the Pirates stole the bases. Brett is really angry.

Marty has a different plan. She, Brett, and José spy on the Pirates during practice. They hear the Pirates' coach tell his team to win at any cost. They believe that he may have stolen the bases himself.

Brett nearly gets into fistfights with two Pirates. Luckily, Brett's friend Dwight keeps him from fighting and maybe getting suspended. Brett's sisters finally tell him that they made up the story about Randell and his confession.

Saturday arrives, and it's the day of the big game. The Dodgers start out well. They strike the Pirates out and then get three runs. But the Pirates catch up. Finally, the game is tied. It's up to Brett. The other team teases him, but he keeps his temper. He gets a hit, and Marty scores a run. The Dodgers win the game!

Just then, a man shows up from the city department of recreation. He explains that he took the bases to be repaired. The Dodgers are relieved that their bases are safe. And they're ready to beat the Pirates next time!



Name _____

WHO STOLE THE BASES?

Chapter 1

Using Long Vowels

Read the words in the word box. Each word contains a long vowel sound. Say the words to yourself and listen for the long vowel sounds. Then read each sentence. Choose a word from the word box to complete each sentence. Write your answer on the blank line.

cleats	heap	stealing
coach	faces	mean
Speedy	lines	snakes
bases	team	

Example: "Hurry up, _____ *Speedy* _____," Brett called to Marty.

1. No one could find the _____.
2. The garden hoses looked like _____.
3. Baseball equipment lay in a _____ on the floor of the shed.
4. Mr. Espinoza was the Dodgers' _____.
5. The _____ needed to practice so they could win.
6. "I _____ the Pirates took the bases," Brett said.
7. The players formed two _____ and practiced throwing the ball to each other.
8. The players wore shoes with _____.
9. "They'll pay for _____ our bases," Brett said.
10. José said, "They'd better not show their _____ around here!"



Name _____

WHO STOLE THE BASES?

Chapter 1

Finding Base Words

Each word below has been made by adding an ending such as *-ly*, *-ed*, or *-ing* to a base word. On the blank beside each word, write the base word.

Example: blinded _____ *blind* _____

1. shining _____

11. rivalry _____

2. stepped _____

12. darkened _____

3. smelled _____

13. squeezed _____

4. walking _____

14. broken _____

5. puzzled _____

15. giggled _____

6. agreed _____

16. echoed _____

7. finally _____

17. greatest _____

8. excitedly _____

18. quickly _____

9. enemies _____

19. suddenly _____

10. chatter _____

20. angry _____