Ernest Lawrence Thayer wrote “Casey at the Bat” in 1888. The poem was first published in a San Francisco, California newspaper. It is an amusing poem about a baseball game. “Casey at the Bat” has become very popular over time.

It looked extremely rocky for the Mudville nine that day:
The score stood four to six with just an inning left to play;
And so, when Cooney died at first, and Burrows did the same,
A pallor wreathed the features of the patrons of the game.

A straggling few got up to go, leaving there the rest
With that hope that springs eternal within the human breast;
For they thought if only Casey could get one whack, at that
They'd put up even money, with Casey at the bat.

But Flynn preceded Casey, and so likewise did Blake,
But the former was a pudding, and the latter was a fake;
So on that stricken multitude a death-like silence sat,
For there seemed but little chance of Casey's getting to the bat.

But Flynn let drive a single to the wonderment of all,
And the much-despised Blaikie tore the cover off the ball;
And when the dust had lifted, and they saw what had occurred,
There was Blaikie safe on second and Flynn a-hugging third!

Then from the gladdened multitude went up a joyous yell,
It bounded from the mountain-top, and rattled in the dell,
It struck upon the hillside, and rebounded on the flat;
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place,
There was pride in Casey's bearing, and a smile on Casey's face;
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,
No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.

Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt,
Five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt;
Then, while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip,
Defiance glanced in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.

And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,
And Casey stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there;
Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped:
"That ain't my style," said Casey. "Strike one," the umpire said.

From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,
Like the beating of the storm-waves on a stern and distant shore;
"Kill him! Kill the umpire!" shouted some one in the stand.
And it's likely they'd have killed him had not Casey raised his hand.
With a smile of Christian charity great Casey’s visage shone;  
He stilled the rising tumult; he bade the game go on;  
He signaled to the pitcher, and once more the spheroid flew,  
But Casey still ignored it; and the umpire said, “Strike two.”

“Fraud!” cried the maddened thousands, and the echo answered, “Fraud!”  
But the scornful look from Casey, and the audience was awed;  
They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain,  
And they knew that Casey wouldn’t let that ball go by again.

The sneer is gone from Casey’s lip, his teeth are clenched with hate;  
He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate;  
And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,  
And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey’s blow.

Oh, somewhere in this favoured land the sun is shining bright,  
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light,  
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout;  
But there is no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey has struck out.

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**Casey at the Bat Word Search**

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

- CASEY
- BASEBALL
- BAT
- SWING
- STRIKE
- PITCHER
- UMPIRE
- MUDVILLE
- GAME
- SPHERE

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**Word Search Grid**

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D G P H R T Y U S T N U
L L I O U E N T V U M
B A T E U G U E R I T P
T E C R E M O D I G F I
N E H I P C D O K O R R
I U E T O A E L E P T E
S I R D O S G R G N A F
P C B A S E B A L L I D
H O E U L Y U M M O D T
E N U I S Y I B L E A T
R S W I N G T I L L A O
E E P E M U D V I L L E
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Casey at the Bat Words and Phrases

I. Baseball Idioms

Idioms are phrases that have a separate meaning to a special group or in a special area. The sport of baseball has many common idioms, such as “home run” or “hit it out of the park.” Below are a list on idioms used in “Case at the Bat.” Write what you think each idiom means.

Example of correct answers:

1. “Cooney died at first”
________________________________________________________________________________

2. “the former was a pudding”
________________________________________________________________________________

3. “the latter was a fake”
________________________________________________________________________________

4. “...Blaikie tore the cover off the ball”
________________________________________________________________________________

5. “Flynn a-hugging third”
________________________________________________________________________________

II. Vocabulary Match

Match the word with its meaning by writing the correct letter in the blank.

1. ____________ pallor
   A. removed
2. ____________ wreathed
   B. scornful; stuck up
3. ____________ straggling
   C. ordered or commanded
4. ____________ multitude
   D. covered
5. ____________ wonderment
   E. ignored or disregarded
6. ____________ gladdened
   F. made happy
7. ____________ bearing
   G. expression on the face
8. ____________ doffed
   H. amazement
9. ____________ writhing
   I. pale; having no color
10. ___________ haughty
    J. twist or squirm
11. ___________ grandeur
    K. large number
12. __________ unheeded
    L. crowd disturbance or riot
13. __________ visage
    M. great or magnificent
14. ___________ tumult
    N. posture; way of standing
15. __________ bade
    O. to go in an irregular way; stray
II. Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer in the blank.

1. At the beginning of the poem, Mudville had ______________ points and the other team had ________________.

2. Fans started leaving the game because they thought Casey would not get to ________________.

3. If Casey had made a home run, the score would have been ________________ points for Mudville and ________________ points for the other team.

4. On the third pitch, Casey ________________ the ball.

II. Order of Events

Put the following events in the passage in the order they happened. Mark the first event with a 1, the second with a 2 and so on.

A. __________ Two Mudville players got to second and third bases.

B. __________ Casey struck out.

C. __________ Two Mudville players made outs.

D. __________ Casey went to bat.

E. __________ The Mudville team was behind in the last inning.

F. __________ Casey ignored the first two pitches.
Casey at the Bat: What’s the Main Idea?

Write the main idea in the box for the three supporting ideas in the ovals.

For they thought if only Casey could get one whack, at that They’d put up even money, with Casey at the bat.

For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

No stranger in the crowd could doubt ‘twas Casey at the bat.
Casey at the Bat: Poetry to Prose

“Casey at the Bat” is a poem. What do you think the poem would be like if it was a prose story, or a story without the rhyme and meter? In the space below, rewrite the poem as a story.

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Idioms are phrases that have a separate meaning to a special group or in a special area. The sport of baseball has many common idioms, such as “home run” or “hit it out of the park.” Below are a list on idioms used in “Case at the Bat.” Write what you think each idiom means.

Example of correct answers:

1. “Cooney died at first”
   - made an out at first base
2. “the former was a pudding”
   - a poor baseball hitter
3. “the latter was a fake”
   - a poor baseball hitter
4. “...Blaikie tore the cover off the ball”
   - hit the ball very hard
5. “Flynn a-hugging third”
   - was on third base

II. Vocabulary Match

Match the word with its meaning by writing the correct letter in the blank.

Name: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<td>D. covered</td>
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Example of correct answers:

1. made an out at first base
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3. a poor baseball hitter
4. hit the ball very hard
5. was on third base
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Put the following events in the passage in the order they happened. Mark the first event with a 1, the second with a 2 and so on.

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Write the correct answer in the blank.

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4. On the third pitch, Casey ____________ the ball.
Casey at the Bat: What’s the Main Idea?

Write the main idea in the box for the three supporting ideas in the ovals.

Example of correct answer:
Casey was a great baseball player.

For they thought if only Casey could get one whack, at that
They’d put up even money, with Casey at the bat.

For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

No stranger in the crowd could doubt ‘twas Casey at the bat.
“Casey at the Bat” is a poem. What do you think the poem would be like if it was a prose story, or a story without the rhyme and meter? In the space below, rewrite the poem as a story.

Student’s answers will vary.