

# Casey at the Bat

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

by Ernest Lawrence Thayer

*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 stragglng 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.

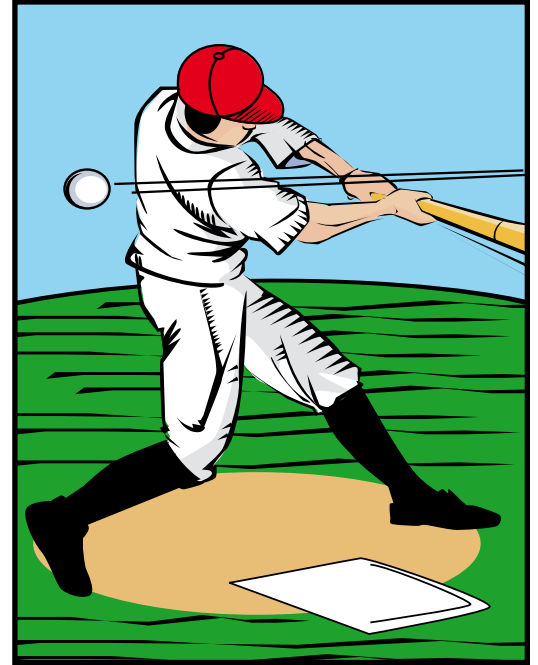
There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place,  
There was pride in Casey's bearing, and a smile on Casey's face;  
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,  
No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.



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.



## Casey at the Bat (continued)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

## 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

D	G	P	H	R	T	Y	U	S	T	N	U
L	L	I	Q	U	I	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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**



# 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 |



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

# Casey at the Bat

## What Happened?

### 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.



### 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

## Casey at the Bat: What's the Main Idea?

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

```
graph TD; A[ ] --- B([For they thought if only Casey could get one whack, at that They'd put up even money, with Casey at the bat.]); A --- C([For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.]); A --- D([No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.]);
```

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 (continued)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

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.

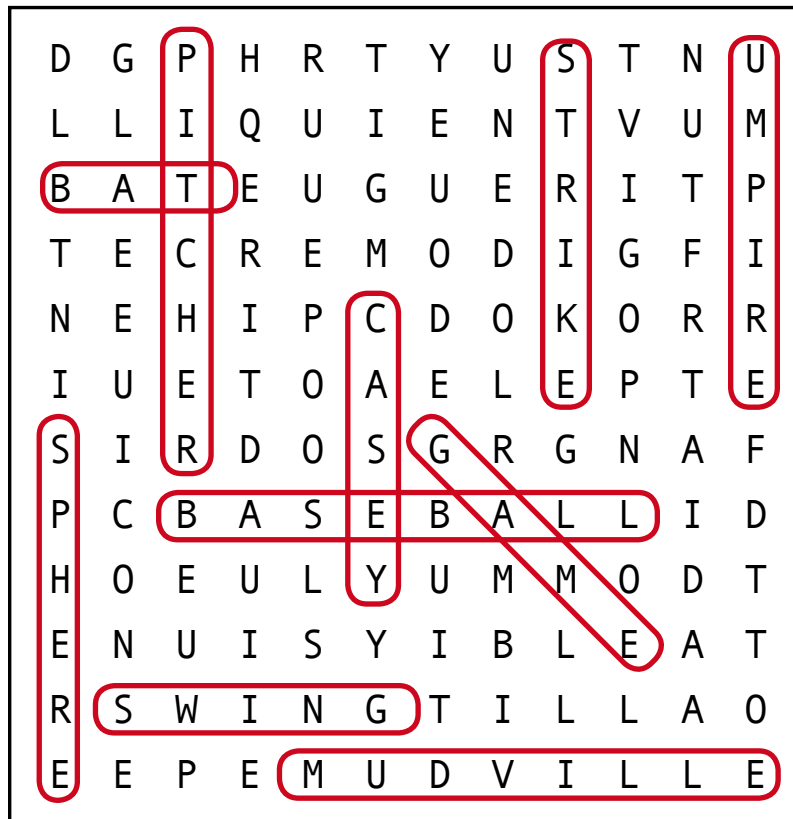
The sneer is gone from Casey's lip, his teeth are clenched with hate;  
He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate;  
And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,  
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1. “Cooney died at first”  
\_\_\_\_\_ **made an out at first 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.

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ <b>I</b> _____ pallor     | A. removed                          |
| 2. _____ <b>D</b> _____ wretched   | B. scornful; stuck up               |
| 3. _____ <b>O</b> _____ straggling | C. ordered or commanded             |
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| 5. _____ <b>H</b> _____ wonderment | E. ignored or disregarded           |
| 6. _____ <b>F</b> _____ gladdened  | F. made happy                       |
| 7. _____ <b>N</b> _____ bearing    | G. expression on the face           |
| 8. _____ <b>A</b> _____ doffed     | H. amazement                        |
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- A.   3   Two Mudville players got to second and third bases.
- B.   6   Casey struck out.
- C.   2   Two Mudville players made outs.
- D.   4   Casey went to bat.
- E.   1   The Mudville team was behind in the last inning.
- F.   5   Casey ignored the first two pitches.



### II. Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer in the blank.

1. At the beginning of the poem, Mudville had   four   points and the other team had   six  .
2. Fans started leaving the game because they thought Casey would not get to   bat  .
3. If Casey had made a home run, the score would have been   seven   points for Mudville and   six   points for the other team.
4. On the third pitch, Casey   missed   the ball.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

## 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.

