

# HOME-RUN KING



## THE SLUGGER

Aaron Judge is ranked with baseball greats Babe Ruth and Roger Maris. But he just wants to be himself.

**LEXILE:** 1060L (910L alternate reading level)

**SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD:** Culture

**COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS:** RI.6–8.3, RI.6–8.4, RI.6–8.6, W.6–8.2

## ENGAGE THE READER

Ask students: What role do professional sports play in our culture? Why do we emulate or admire professional athletes? Why are professional-sports stars so highly paid? Are these athletes worth their salaries? Why or why not? How do star athletes benefit their teams, their team's city, and their fans? As students read the article, have them note details that confirm or challenge their ideas.

## QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Judge's record chase boosted television ratings. Why does the author include this detail? How might a baseball team benefit from television ratings?
- "I just try to be who I am," Judge says. What might this quote tell us about him? How do you think Judge handles his celebrity?
- Do you think articles like this one can add to an athlete's fame? Explain.

## EXTEND LEARNING

Have students create an illustrated record of Aaron Judge's career to-date, in the form of a baseball card. Tell students that for many fans and collectors, baseball cards are a source of information about players from the past. Students can find examples of the flip side of a baseball card online. This usually includes biographical information, statistics, and other facts that distinguish a player's career. There may also be illustrations.

To create their cards, students can work from the information in the article. They can follow the format of a classic baseball card, or alter that format. The goal is to give a future fan a picture of Judge's career and other noteworthy traits, and in a format that makes the card visually appealing. Student might use images from the article for the front of the card, or seek out other images they think better illustrate the information on the back.

## COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

**1. D** (RI.2) **2. C** (RI.4) **3. A** (RI.6) **4. B** (RI.1) **5. C** (RI.8)

**6. A** (RI.3) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.2)



## A YEAR OF WAR

Demonstrations took place around the world on February 24, the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**LEXILE:** 1070L (920L alternate reading level)

**SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD:** Global Connections

**COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS:** RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.4, RI.6-8.5, RI.6-8.6

### BEFORE READING

Have students read the headline and look at the photo. Ask: What do you see in the photo? Why are the people in the photo gathering? What do think this story is about? Encourage students to share what they know about the war in Ukraine, and invite them to ask questions. For background on the war, students can read [“War in Ukraine” \(March 4, 2022\)](#). The story [“Pain at the Pump” \(March 18, 2022\)](#) explains how the war has affected gas prices in the United States.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the purpose of a demonstration or protest? What do these demonstrations tell us about how the war in Ukraine is viewed around the world?
- How would you describe the tone of Zelensky’s quote? Why do you think Zelensky uses this tone? What might he hope to accomplish?



## SPRING AHEAD

Daylight saving time increases daylight on spring and summer nights. Some say the time change should be permanent.

**LEXILE:** 950L (780L alternate reading level)

**SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD:** Time, Continuity, and Change

**COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS:** RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.8, SL.6-8.1

### BEFORE READING

Explain daylight saving time to students, and ask: Do you think daylight saving time should be permanent? Why or why not?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How has daylight saving time affected you and your family?
- Which side of the debate over daylight saving time do you agree with more, and why?
- How do you think the debate will be resolved? Explain.

### CLOSING ACTIVITY

Take a class poll: “Would you like DST to be year-round, why or why not?” Record the responses on the board. Tally the class percentage for each response, and the percentages for the most popular reasons (see the survey described in the article’s last paragraph). Then have students conduct a survey of their school and tally the results. Ask: Do these polls confirm the information in the article? Explain.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use this week's cover story, "The Slugger," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. What is this article mostly about?</p> <p>A. which baseball players currently hold records</p> <p>B. what it feels like to be a star athlete</p> <p>C. the importance of becoming a free agent in sports</p> <p>D. an athlete's experience as a record-breaking baseball player</p>	<p>4. According to the article, Judge broke the home-run record and</p> <p>A. has the highest batting average in the American League.</p> <p>B. leads the American League in runs batted in.</p> <p>C. has 40,000 fans.</p> <p>D. has 84% more followers than the MLB's Twitter page.</p>
<p>2. Which sentence uses the word <i>stretch</i> in the same way as the article does?</p> <p>A. He crossed a large stretch of land to reach the cabin.</p> <p>B. A rubber band can stretch without breaking.</p> <p>C. She passed the leader in the stretch of the marathon.</p> <p>D. Millie took a big stretch after a nap.</p>	<p>5. Why did the author include details about Judge as a free agent?</p> <p>A. to indicate that he was willing to work for free</p> <p>B. to show the reader how much money baseball players make</p> <p>C. to highlight an important career choice</p> <p>D. to illustrate the impact social media has had on his decisions</p>
<p>3. With which statement would Aaron Judge likely agree?</p> <p>A. There is no <i>I</i> in <i>team</i>.</p> <p>B. You get better by comparing yourself to the best.</p> <p>C. Record-breaking is really important for baseball viewership.</p> <p>D. Never change your technique.</p>	<p>6. What is the first step in the changes Judge made to the way he bats?</p> <p>A. He moved his hands from behind his neck to the middle of his chest.</p> <p>B. He coils his hips and loads up his power.</p> <p>C. He swings through the ball.</p> <p>D. He stretches like a rubber band.</p>

7. What small changes have you made to something in your life that led to big results? Explain how you did it.

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