



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Centerfield Ballhawk,” by Matt Christopher. In this story, a boy named José, who is an excellent outfielder, believes that he has to become a better hitter to get his father’s approval. José learns that he is really important to his team and his family. You might want to discuss the story with your child and work on one or more of the activities below. The activities will provide opportunities to develop and expand your child’s language skills.

Rereading

Ask your child to select one of his or her favorite parts of the story to reread aloud. Encourage your child to read carefully with a good expression. If your child has chosen a section with dialogue, you might want to read along with your child, each taking the role of a different character.

VOCABULARY

Word Play

The vocabulary words for “Centerfield Ballhawk” are **ballhawk**, **vanish**, **concentrate**, **depend**, **fault**, and **outfielder**. Ask your child to pronounce each word. Then play a vocabulary game with your child. One player writes blank lines for each letter in a vocabulary word. The other player guesses a letter of the alphabet. If the word contains the letter, write it in the blank. If not, the player “buys” a letter for one point. Continue until the letters are filled in. The player with the fewest points wins.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

Character Description

Work with your child to create character webs that describe José and his dad, Mr. Mendez. Ask your child to write the name of each character in the center of the sheet of paper. Then have him or her write words around each name that describe the character. You might want to prompt your child with questions like these: *What did José’s teammates say about him? How did José feel when he was out at bat? What things did Mr. Mendez say to José? Did you like these characters? Why or why not?*

