

Think Aloud for *The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game* by Nancy Churnin

What the Text Says	What I Say	The Comprehension Strategy I Model
He stepped back so he could try again. (p. 1)	<i>Based on the clues of a rubber ball and him aiming at the wall, I'm guessing William is playing a sport. When I look at the subtitle and the pictures, I can tell he's trying to throw a baseball accurately. Maybe he's trying to be a pitcher.</i>	 Making inferences
"I want to be perfect for tryouts." His mother nodded. (p. 3)	<i>I've got some clues that make me think William is deaf. His mother is signaling with her hands, and William is reading lips and writing instead of speaking.</i>	 Making inferences
"It will never last." (p. 4)	<i>It could be that his father doesn't think baseball is a good idea for William—he shakes his head and says, "It will never last." Maybe his dad thinks sports are silly. I wonder if he thinks William is not a very good baseball player.</i>	 Making inferences  Asking questions
So every day, after homework and chores, he practiced. (p. 5)	<i>In a nutshell, I can tell that William is a hard worker. He's determined. Even though he's deaf and he's short, he still practices hard and is hopeful about making the team. He's optimistic and he won't give up.</i>	 Synthesizing
William threw the ball smack into his teammates' hands. (p. 9)	<i>Now I understand that it's even harder for William to play baseball because he's deaf. Despite what a good player he is, William can't hear the other players.</i>	 Synthesizing
William grinned. He sure did! (p. 11)	<i>I'm curious about why the man seems to look at the paper for such a long time. Was he debating whether or not to invite William on the team? Could it be that the man thinks he won't be a very good player because he's deaf?</i>	 Asking questions
"I quit," William told him with his notebook. (p. 12)	<i>I'm getting the sense that people treat William unfairly just because he's deaf, but that William won't tolerate this. The manager tries to pay him less, and his reaction is to quit. This also makes me think that William is true to himself and believes in his own value.</i>	 Synthesizing  Making inferences
Others hid their mouths so he couldn't read their lips. (p. 13)	<i>This evidence is confirming what I was thinking. Not only are coaches unfair to him, but players treat him differently too.</i>	 Synthesizing
He pointed to the fans in the stands laughing too. William's face grew hot. He walked off quickly. He wasn't going to cry. Not about baseball, he told himself. (p. 15)	<i>The author doesn't come right out and say it, but I'm getting the sense that William is proud, and that pride makes it so he won't cry in front of the crowd who is laughing at him.</i>	 Making inferences

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He remembered how his mom would raise her arms to applaud him. (p. 16)	<i>From these bits of evidence—his mother’s letter, her applause for him, her watching him practice—the author is hinting that William and his mother are very close. She’s very supportive of him.</i>	 Making inferences
The umpire read William’s notes. “Yes, that could work,” he said. (p. 19)	<i>I’m really curious about what words he wrote. What did he write that the umpire thinks could work? What was his idea?</i>	 Asking questions
With his strong, sure arm, he became the first player to throw three base runners out at the plate in one game—from the outfield! (p. 21)	<i>Now I understand that his idea was for the umpire and coaches to use hand symbols to help him. Those hand symbols improved his baseball career!</i>	 Synthesizing
Now, even the farthest member of the crowd could see the signals. (p. 23)	<i>The big idea here is that hand symbols were useful for the players, the umpires, and the fans!</i>	 Synthesizing
He was called the king of center field because for ten years he was ranked among the top five outfielders to get hitters out by catching hard-to-reach fly balls. (p. 25)	<i>I learned that William was not only popular, but skilled. Teams wanted him, and he was highly ranked!</i>	 Synthesizing
They waved hats too. (p. 27)	<i>From the picture and the reminder about “just how his mother did when he was a boy,” I’m guessing that the fans were waving their hands and hats as a way to applaud him.</i>	 Making inferences
But he did, and we still cheer him today. (p. 27)	<i>I think the author’s purpose in writing this was to show how important William Hoy was to baseball. The author is telling me that William overcame the challenge of being deaf to achieve his dreams. The author is also telling me that William made an important contribution to baseball—the hand signals that we still see in games today.</i>	 Understanding the author’s purpose

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