Lesson 2 – Pre-Visit
Step Up to the Plate for
Baseball Idioms

Objective: Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of idioms by creating and interpreting simple examples.
- Create a PowerPoint show illustrating two types of baseball idioms.

Time Required: 1 class period

Materials Needed:
- Access to computers with PowerPoint software.
- Pencils and paper
- A printed copy of the “Baseball Lingo” ideas list (included)

Vocabulary:
Idiom - A common, everyday phrase, saying or expression whose meaning cannot be understood by the individual words or elements
Applicable Common Core State Standards:

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3, RF.4.3, RF.5.3** Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4, RF.4.4, RF.5.4** Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4, L.4.4, L.5.4** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade-appropriate reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.5, L.4.5, L.5.5** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.6** With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.6** With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.6** With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting.
1. To begin this lesson, discuss that the common use of baseball words and phrases in our language reveals how the game has made a lasting impact on American culture.

2. To demonstrate, ask each student to write down one word or phrase that is associated with baseball.

3. Call each student, one at a time, to come up to the board and write down their word or phrase. Let students know that words cannot be repeated, so if necessary, some students may have to come up with something new. Allow students to ask classmates for help if necessary.

4. Review students’ list of words and phrases. Point out that many of the words and phrases have other meanings that have nothing to do with baseball.

5. Introduce or review idioms. These are common, everyday phrases, sayings or expressions whose meanings cannot be understood by their individual words. Many baseball words and phrases are idioms.

6. Highlight or underline any baseball idioms already listed by students. Provide additional examples using the “Baseball Lingo” list included with this lesson.

7. Discuss the following:
   • “Can you think of any stories or books that use idioms?”
   • “Why might a writer or an average person choose to use an idiom?”

8. Encourage students to practice this concept by writing two sentences using the same word or phrase. Sentence 1 should reflect the word or phrase in its baseball context. Sentence 2 should reflect the word or phrase in its non-baseball context.

9. Introduce the activity.
1. Explain that students will be creating PowerPoint slide shows to illustrate common baseball idioms.

2. Review project requirements. Each PowerPoint must contain the following:
   • One title slide containing the student’s name
   • Two slides with illustrated examples of two baseball idioms in baseball context.
   • Two slides with illustrated examples of the same baseball idioms in non-baseball context.

3. You may want to provide students with a copy of your class list from the lesson, or printed copies of the “Baseball Lingo” list to have as a reference tool.

4. Review or explain how to create a PowerPoint presentation, and how to add words and images.

5. Have students complete their presentations in your school’s media lab. Provide technical assistance as necessary.

**Conclusion:**

To complete this lesson and check for understanding, students will participate in a “round robin” computer lab activity in which they will “visit” each computer and view each student’s PowerPoint. You may also review the presentations in your classroom if you have a whiteboard and projector. Have each student narrate his or her presentation.
## Baseball Lingo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Idiom</th>
<th>Baseball Meaning</th>
<th>Other Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strike out</td>
<td>to be declared out after making three strikes</td>
<td>to fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play ball</td>
<td>to play a ball game with someone</td>
<td>to cooperate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throw someone a curveball</td>
<td>to pitch a curve ball to the batter</td>
<td>to surprise someone unpleasantly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball park</td>
<td>place where baseball is played</td>
<td>a general, rather than exact figure; a &quot;ballpark&quot; implies a large area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the big leagues</td>
<td>to be in the major leagues</td>
<td>to be a big shot, a major player, to be well-known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out in left field</td>
<td>to be in the left field of a ballpark</td>
<td>to be away from the action, from what's happening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop the ball</td>
<td>to make an error by dropping a ball</td>
<td>to fail in some way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two strikes against you</td>
<td>the batter has only one more strike before he is out</td>
<td>to have one more chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knock one out of the park</td>
<td>to hit a ball out of the baseball park</td>
<td>to have a great idea, to do something very well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step up to the plate</td>
<td>the batter steps up to the plate and gets ready to hit the ball</td>
<td>get ready to do something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A whole new ball game</td>
<td>a change in circumstances in the ball game</td>
<td>a change in circumstances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To make a hit</td>
<td>to reach base without being called &quot;out&quot;</td>
<td>to do well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To play hardball</td>
<td>as opposed to soft ball, to throw a hard ball</td>
<td>to play tough, to play to win</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>