

94B

Tío Victor's Big Hit

by Juanita Havill
Leveled Reader 94B
Genre: Realistic Story
Level: Easy/Average

Summary

When Luis and his Tío (Uncle) Victor play baseball together, Luis is just as excited to hear his uncle's stories as he is to play baseball. Luis's favorite story tells how Tío Victor learned to hit a baseball—by pretending it was a piñata!

At a Glance

Links to the Student Edition

Comprehension Skill: Author's Purpose

Selection Vocabulary: *future, handkerchief, involved, memories*

Program Theme: Myself and Others

Unit Theme: Focus on Family

Sharing favorite family stories helps bring family members closer together.

Before Reading

Motivating the Reader

Build Background About Baseball

Show pictures or a videotape of a baseball game. Write terms associated with the game on the chalkboard and invite volunteers to describe, act out, or draw pictures to explain each term. Invite students to share their own experiences playing baseball. Ask them if they ever had trouble learning to hit or catch and what they did to become a better player. Have students tell what advice they would give to someone having difficulty hitting the ball.

Preview and Predict

Have students scan the cover, text, and illustrations. Read the title and ask students to predict what a "big hit" is.

Point out selection vocabulary and any unfamiliar words, such as those related to baseball or derived from Spanish, that might be important to understanding the book. If you have Spanish-speaking students, invite them to model the pronunciations of Spanish words in the book.

During Reading

Guiding Comprehension

Use the following questions to support students as they read.

- **Pages 2–3** Why does Tío Victor play baseball with Luís on Saturday mornings? (Tío Victor works hard during the week. They play in the morning because later in the day it will be too hot.)
- **Pages 2–3** What English words mean the same as Tío and Tía? Use context clues to figure it out? (uncle and aunt)
- **Page 4** What does Luís love about playing baseball with Tío Victor? (He loves to catch the balls his uncle hits, and he loves to listen to his uncle's memories.)
- **Page 5** Why does Luís tell his uncle he has not heard the story before? (Even though Luís has heard the story before, he wants to hear it again.)
- **Page 6** When did Tío Victor learn to play baseball? (He learned to play when he was little and had just moved to a new country.)
- **Page 9** What wrong idea did Tío Victor have about baseball? (He thought that the pitcher tried to hit the batter with the ball, and the batter tried to hit the ball to avoid being hit with it.)
- **Pages 10–11** How did Tío Victor learn about the rules of baseball? (He watched his friend Karl play to see what he did.)
- **Page 12** What does up mean here? (When Tío Victor says, "I was up," he means that it was his turn.)
- **Page 14** What does this thought bubble show? (It shows what Tío Victor imagined—hitting a piñata instead of a baseball.)
- **Page 16** How does Luís feel about his uncle? (He thinks he tells wonderful stories, and he thinks he is a good baseball player.)
- **Page 16** Why do you think the author wrote this book? (Possible answer: to entertain readers by telling an interesting story)

Ongoing Assessment

Reading Strategies

If... students stumble over the pronunciation of Tío, Tía, Luís, and piñata,

Then... point to the accent marks and model the pronunciations.

If... a student does not recognize that the time of the book has "shifted" on page 6,

Then... have the student turn back to page 4. Point out that Tío Victor is getting ready to tell a story.

If... a student has difficulty explaining why the author may have written the book,

Then... use **Model Your Thinking** below.

Model Your Thinking

 **Comprehension Skill:**
Author's Purpose

**Think
ALoud**

Authors write for different reasons, such as to persuade, inform, express a mood or strong feelings, or entertain. As I read this book, I asked myself: "Why did Juanita Havill write it?" Like Luís, I really enjoyed Tío Victor's story. It was funny when he thought that the pitcher was trying to hit people with the ball. It was interesting when he compared a piñata to a baseball. I think that Juanita Havill wrote *Tío Victor's Big Hit* to entertain readers. Thinking about an author's purpose, or reason, for writing something helps me figure out how fast or slow I should read. I usually read entertaining stories faster than an article full of facts.

After Reading

Revisiting the Text

Comprehension Have pairs reread the book and write a short book review. Students should tell what the book is about, why they think the author wrote it, and what they did or didn't like about it. Remind them to support their opinions with specific examples.

Name _____

Author's Purpose

Read the story *Tío Victor's Big Hit* and then answer Numbers 1 through 5.

1 Which of the following BEST describes this story?

- (A) It is a fable.
- (B) It is a realistic story.
- (C) It is an informative article.
- (D) It is a list of directions.

2 What did Tío Victor imagine when it was his turn to bat?

- (F) that he would win the game
- (G) that he would strike out
- (H) that the ball was a bird
- (I) that the ball was a piñata

3 What story did Luis love to hear Tío Victor tell?

- (A) the story about the first time he played baseball
- (B) the story about the first baseball game ever played
- (C) the story about a giant firecracker
- (D) the story about moving here from far away

4 Why did Tío Victor watch Karl so closely when it was Karl's turn at bat? Use details and examples from the story to explain your answer.

5 Why did the author write *Tío Victor's Big Hit*? Use details from the story to explain your answer.
