

Name:

Day One

Back in the Game: The New York Knicks

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Can the Knicks become a top team again? Read silently.

The New York Knicks are a basketball team with a winning history. They won NBA titles in 1970 and 1973. The team was home to Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing, who played for the Knicks from 1985–2000. After Ewing left the team, however, the Knicks would plummet to the bottom of the league rankings. For almost ten years, they were one of the worst teams in the NBA.

From 2001 to 2010, the Knicks struggled. They hired and fired different coaches, trying to find a good fit. They signed one high-priced player after another. Still, they could not consistently win. During the 2007–2008 season, the Knicks lost two out of every three games. They lost one embarrassing game against the Celtics by 45 points. Could anyone save the Knicks?

In 2010, things began to look better. The Knicks signed some top players. They played some aggressive games. But they needed a big star. On February 22, 2011, a trade from the Denver Nuggets gave fans hope. Carmelo Anthony became a Knick.

Anthony was a star. The team, however, was only so-so. Some fans feared Anthony would leave New York unless the Knicks won a championship. Anthony commented to *ESPN*: “I’m not going to put that pressure on myself or our guys to say that it’s championship or bust.” In the end, however, Anthony gave up on the Knicks. He left New York for a team with a better shot at winning.

Source: “Carmelo Anthony won’t talk contract,” *ESPN*, October 1, 2013.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did the Knicks do as a team between 2001 and 2010?

What key trade gave New York fans something to cheer about?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

The New York Knicks / are a basketball team with a winning history. // They won NBA titles in 1970 and 1973. // The team was home to Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing, / who played for the Knicks from 1985–2000. // After Ewing left the team, / however, / the Knicks would plummet to the bottom of the league rankings. // For almost ten years, / they were one of the worst teams in the NBA. //

From 2001 to 2010, / the Knicks struggled. // They hired and fired different coaches, / trying to find a good fit. // They signed one high-priced player after another. // Still, / they could not consistently win. // During the 2007–2008 season, / the Knicks lost two out of every three games. // They lost one embarrassing game against the Celtics / by 45 points. // Could anyone save the Knicks? //

In 2010, / things began to look better. // The Knicks signed some top players. // They played some aggressive games. // But they needed a big star. // On February 22, / 2011, / a trade from the Denver Nuggets gave fans hope. // Carmelo Anthony became a Knick. //

Anthony was a star. // The team, / however, / was only so-so. // Some fans feared Anthony would leave New York / unless the Knicks won a championship. // Anthony commented to ESPN: / “I’m not going to put that pressure on myself or our guys / to say that it’s championship or bust.” // In the end, / however, / Anthony gave up on the Knicks. // He left New York for a team with a better shot at winning. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.