

Name:

Day One

A Sports Tragedy

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out about a dangerous injury that affects athletes. Read silently.

Sixteen-year-old Ryan Dougherty was a junior at Montclair High School. He was a linebacker on the junior varsity football team. “He loved the game,” said a teammate. “He talked about football 24/7.” On October 15, his team played a game. Ryan made a hard tackle. He had a brain bleed and was rushed to the hospital, where he died later that night.

Ryan’s death was a tragedy. Could it have been prevented? Some people think so. A month earlier, Ryan got a concussion during practice. He went to the doctor. He sat out for a few weeks. He had lost part of the season, so he told the doctor he felt normal. But he told friends that this was a lie. He only said it so he could play football again. This lie may have cost him his life.

A concussion is a head injury that affects the brain. Concussion victims may feel confused or depressed. They may be dizzy or nauseous. Healing after a concussion takes time. Victims may feel sick, confused, or depressed for weeks. These feelings mean the brain is still injured.

Football is the sport where high school athletes get the most concussions. There are about 47 concussions per 100,000 games or practices. After a concussion, it is important that players do not get reinjured. They must protect their brains until they have totally healed. Second injuries can cause lifelong brain damage. In Ryan’s case, the second injury was deadly.



Day One

// one minute

A Sports Tragedy

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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linebacker on the junior varsity football team. “He loved the game,” said a teammate.
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hard tackle. He had a brain bleed and was rushed to the hospital, where he died later that 64
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Second injuries can cause lifelong brain damage. In Ryan’s case, the second injury 245
was deadly. 247

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did Ryan die? _____

What is a concussion? _____

Day One

A Sports Tragedy

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.

Sixteen-year-old Ryan Dougherty / was a junior at Montclair High School. // He was a linebacker on the junior varsity football team. // “He loved the game,” / said a teammate. // “He talked about football 24/7.” // On October 15, / his team played a game. // Ryan made a hard tackle. // He had a brain bleed / and was rushed to the hospital, / where he died later that night. //

Ryan’s death was a tragedy. // Could it have been prevented? // Some people think so. // A month earlier, / Ryan got a concussion during practice. // He went to the doctor. // He sat out for a few weeks. // He had lost part of the season, / so he told the doctor he felt normal. // But he told friends that this was a lie. // He only said it / so he could play football again. // This lie may have cost him his life. //

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Football is the sport / where high school athletes get the most concussions. // There are about 47 concussions per 100,000 games / or practices. // After a concussion, / it is important that players do not get reinjured. // They must protect their brains / until they have totally healed. // Second injuries can cause lifelong brain damage. // In Ryan’s case, / the second injury was deadly. //

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