

Name:

Day One

Vladimir's Way

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out what made this star baseball player unique. Read silently.

Vladimir Guerrero was a unique player in the world of major league baseball. He was a confident hitter, a lightning-fast base stealer, and a strong right fielder. Some say he had the strongest arm in baseball. Guerrero is a true individual; he became a great athlete by believing in his own style of play.

When Guerrero was a young player, he often struck out. Most baseball players only swing at pitches inside the strike zone. Guerrero swung at pitches that were far outside. People criticized his wild swings. In his best years, he swung at pitches far outside the strike zone. However, he often turned those wild pitches into home runs. A common baseball joke is that Guerrero's strike zone was bigger than everyone else's. An announcer once joked, "Guerrero's strike zone starts when he gets out of bed in the morning."

Guerrero's batting was unusual in another way. He didn't wear batting gloves. He says he developed tough hands as a boy in the Dominican Republic, helping his grandfather tend cows. For a better grip on the bat, he smeared dark, sticky pine tar on his helmet, and then he rubbed it on his hands before batting.

Guerrero's attitude was as unusual as his batting style. "He doesn't act like a superstar," said a teammate. "He has no cockiness or selfishness. He's so down to earth it's crazy. And this guy is a *super star*."



Day One Vladimir's Way

// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Vladimir Guerrero was a unique player in the world of major league baseball. He was a confident hitter, a lightning-fast base stealer, and a strong right fielder. Some say he had the strongest arm in baseball. Guerrero is a true individual; he became a great athlete by believing in his own style of play.

When Guerrero was a young player, he often struck out. Most baseball players only swing at pitches inside the strike zone. Guerrero swung at pitches that were far outside. People criticized his wild swings. In his best years, he swung at pitches far outside the strike zone. However, he often turned those wild pitches into home runs. A common baseball joke is that Guerrero's strike zone was bigger than everyone else's. An announcer once joked, "Guerrero's strike zone starts when he gets out of bed in the morning."

Guerrero's batting was unusual in another way. He didn't wear batting gloves. He says he developed tough hands as a boy in the Dominican Republic, helping his grandfather tend cows. For a better grip on the bat, he smeared dark, sticky pine tar on his helmet, and then he rubbed it on his hands before batting.

Guerrero's attitude was as unusual as his batting style. "He doesn't act like a superstar," said a teammate. "He has no cockiness or selfishness. He's so down to earth it's crazy. And this guy is a *super star*."

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What was unique about Vladimir Guerrero?

Where did Guerrero grow up?

Day One

Vladimir's Way

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.

Vladimir Guerrero was a unique player in the world of major league baseball. // He was a confident hitter, / a lightning-fast base stealer, / and a strong right fielder. // Some say he had the strongest arm in baseball. // Guerrero is a true individual; / he became a great athlete by believing in his own style of play. //

When Guerrero was a young player, / he often struck out. // Most baseball players only swing at pitches inside the strike zone. // Guerrero swung at pitches that were far outside. // People criticized his wild swings. // In his best years, / he swung at pitches far outside the strike zone. // However, / he often turned those wild pitches into home runs. // A common baseball joke is that Guerrero's strike zone / was bigger than everyone else's. // An announcer once joked, / "Guerrero's strike zone starts when he gets out of bed / in the morning." //

Guerrero's batting was unusual in another way. // He didn't wear batting gloves. // He says he developed tough hands as a boy in the Dominican Republic, / helping his grandfather tend cows. // For a better grip on the bat, / he smeared dark, / sticky pine tar on his helmet, / and then he rubbed it on his hands before batting. //

Guerrero's attitude was as unusual as his batting style. // "He doesn't act like a superstar," / said a teammate. // "He has no cockiness or selfishness. // He's so down to earth / it's crazy. // And this guy is a *super star*." //

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