

Name:

Day One

D.C. Rugby

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Find out how students from Washington, D.C. discovered rugby. Read silently.

Tal Bayer was a teacher at Hyde Leadership School in Washington, D.C. He sometimes came to school with bruises and black eyes. His students were curious. “They’d say, ‘What’s the deal with this teacher coming in all banged up?’” he says. Bayer explained that the bruises came from his favorite sport: rugby.

Rugby is similar to football. Players try to move the ball down the field. Defenders tackle the ball carrier. But they don’t use protective equipment—no helmets, no pads. Rugby is a dangerous sport.

Rugby is popular in England and Australia. In the U.S., it is less popular. Students who do play rugby tend to be wealthy and White. Tal Bayer’s students were all African American. But they were interested in the sport Bayer loved. Bayer was supportive. He invited students to a match. Soon, Hyde Leadership School had its own team.

The first season, the team lost every game. People said, “You’re crazy, that’s a White person’s sport,” said senior Lawrence Lee. But the students stayed hopeful, and the team improved. They completely dominated their league. The team was undefeated in playoff games for years.

The team’s huge success took them across the country. They even traveled to Texas and California. Sophomore Alex Pettiford said new places and new experiences are part of the game. “Rugby brings the world to you and you to the world,” he said.



Day One D.C. Rugby

// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Tal Bayer was a teacher at Hyde Leadership School in Washington, D.C. He sometimes came to school with bruises and black eyes. His students were curious. “They’d say, ‘What’s the deal with this teacher coming in all banged up?’” he says. Bayer explained that the bruises came from his favorite sport: rugby. 52

Rugby is similar to football. Players try to move the ball down the field. Defenders tackle the ball carrier. But they don’t use protective equipment—no helmets, no pads. Rugby is a dangerous sport. 68
82
86

Rugby is popular in England and Australia. In the U.S., it is less popular. Students who do play rugby tend to be wealthy and White. Tal Bayer’s students were all African American. But they were interested in the sport Bayer loved. Bayer was supportive. He invited students to a match. Soon, Hyde Leadership School had its own team. 102
117
131
144

The first season, the team lost every game. People said, “You’re crazy, that’s a White person’s sport,” said senior Lawrence Lee. But the students stayed hopeful, and the team improved. They completely dominated their league. The team was undefeated in playoff games for years. 159
173
185
188

The team’s huge success took them across the country. They even traveled to Texas and California. Sophomore Alex Pettiford said new places and new experiences are part of the game. “Rugby brings the world to you and you to the world,” he said. 203
216
231

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did Hyde students find out about rugby?

How was the Hyde team different from most rugby teams?

Day One

D.C. Rugby

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.

Tal Bayer was a teacher at Hyde Leadership School / in Washington, / D.C. // He sometimes came to school with bruises / and black eyes. // His students were curious. // “They’d say, / ‘What’s the deal with this teacher coming in all banged up?’” / he says. // Bayer explained that the bruises came from his favorite sport: / rugby. //

Rugby is similar to football. // Players try to move the ball down the field. // Defenders tackle the ball carrier. // But they don’t use protective equipment— / no helmets, / no pads. // Rugby is a dangerous sport. //

Rugby is popular in England / and Australia. // In the U.S., / it is less popular. // Students who do play rugby / tend to be wealthy and White. // Tal Bayer’s students were all African American. // But they were interested in the sport Bayer loved. // Bayer was supportive. // He invited students to a match. // Soon, / Hyde Leadership School had its own team. /

The first season, / the team lost every game. // People said, / “You’re crazy, / that’s a White person’s sport,” / said senior Lawrence Lee. // But the students stayed hopeful, / and the team improved. // They completely dominated their league. // The team was undefeated in playoff games / for years. //

The team’s success has taken them across the country. // They even traveled to Texas / and California. // Sophomore Alex Pettiford said new places and new experiences / are part of the game. // “Rugby brings the world to you / and you to the world,” / he said. //

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