

Virtual Adult Storytime

Theme: Baseball

The purpose of the Virtual Adult Storytime is to provide older adults in the Wadsworth Community with content to facilitate sharing and reminiscing during a time we cannot meet in person.

Story/ Book/ Folktale (People of all ages benefit from hearing stories read aloud. For older adults it can be a chance to stir memories and use their imagination)

Baseball facts:

The first known reference to the word “baseball” was in a 1744 publication by children’s publisher John Newberry called A Little Pretty Pocket-Book

The Boston Americans won the first World Series in 1903

The first U.S. president to throw the ceremonial first ball was William Howard Taft (a former semipro baseball player) on April 14, 1910. American presidents, except Jimmy Carter, have been throwing out the first ball on Opening Day ever since.

The oldest ballpark in the US is in Boston; Fenway Park. Built in 1912 it is still in use

The longest baseball game lasted 26 innings. May 1, 1920 between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Boston Braves

From 1995 to 2001, every seat at Jacobs Field was sold out every night for 455 baseball games in a row. The Cleveland Indians retired the number 455 in honor of their fans

Video link of books being read: <https://youtu.be/eNBZyZfgXpw>

Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story by Emily Arnold McCully
The Funniest Man in Baseball by Audrey Vernick

“Tell Me a Story” Pictures (A picture can truly say a thousand words; the pictures included here can spur older adults to remember and even be creative in describing a story from the image. After prompting them, let them become the storytellers.)

Use leading statements and questions such as:

“What is happening in this photo?”

“Who has seen this before?”

“Tell me if you had one of these?”

“This one is funny.”

Etc.

Video Links (These are provided for supplementing the theme. Music, dance, etc. enrich auditory, visual, and memory in older adults. Entertainment and engagement are enhanced with these tools)

Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelley “Take Me Out to the Ballgame”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELyKylxv6bc&ab_channel=BillMills

Amazing MLB Catches

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMBKbyDzGD8&ab_channel=HighlightReel

Funny Kid Baseball Bloopers

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=funny+kids+baseball

Theme-related Activities (Continued enrichment of the theme provided)

Hitting Practice: Help residents improve their swing by scheduling a baseball hitting

practice. Use [plastic bats](#) and [foam baseballs](#) or plastic [Wiffle balls](#) to see how far residents can hit a ball. Set up a target in the backyard to help measure distance. If going outside is not an option, simply toss inflated balloons in the air for residents to hit with [pool noodles](#).

Baseball Art & Crafts: Invite residents to make baseball art that can be used as decoration for Opening Day. Provide residents with [baseball sand art bottles](#) to fill with [colorful sand](#). In addition, supply residents with [mini baseball hats](#) that can be decorated and used as snack bowls.

For even more decoration, encourage residents to color or paint [pennant flags](#) that can be hung throughout your facility for Opening Day. Encourage residents to decorate the flags using the color schemes of their favorite baseball teams.

Play Ball! Musical Baseball Activity:

<https://soundscapingsource.com/play-ball-musical-baseball-activity-for-elders/>

Library Resources (If anyone is interested in this topic, here are some resources that can be provided to you. Please contact the outreach team at outreach@wadsworthlibrary.com and the items can be placed on hold or delivered to you.)

Non-fiction Books:

50 Moments that Defined Major League Baseball by Rocco Constantino

Baseball: An Illustrated History by Geoffrey Ward

The Baseball Encyclopedia by MacMillian Publishing

Baseball Legends by Angus Garber

Cuba's Baseball Defectors: the Inside Story by Peter Bjarkman

Fiction Books:

Baseball Cat by Garrison Allen (Large Print)

The Dixon Cornbelt League and Other Baseball Stories by W.P. Kinsella

A Difficult Trade: The Baseball Mystery by Sam Leonard

All of Me; a Love Between the Bases Novel by Jennifer Bernard

The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach

DVDs

Baseball: The Golden Age of America's Game (Yogi Berra)

Mr. Baseball

MLB Bloopers: The Funny Side of Baseball

American Pastime

Field of Dreams

Babe Ruth: The Life Behind the Legend

Bad News Bears

Bottom of the Ninth

Bull Durham

Eight Men Out

Fastball







