

Casey at the Bat

Ernest Lawrence Thayer

How does confidence become the cause of defeat?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Final at-bat - strikes one through three

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,
END	But there is no joy in Mudville--mighty Casey has struck out.
PASSAGE ID	sec-casey-01

THE MOVE

Trace how characterization creates an ironic outcome

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The final sequence builds Casey as completely certain of his superiority. His refusal to swing, his control of the crowd, and the language of grandeur make the final strikeout more than bad luck: the poem turns confidence into the setup for irony.

MARK

Underline Casey's deliberate choices on strikes one and two. Circle words that make him appear powerful or grand. Box the crowd's reactions. Star the final reversal.

NOTICE

- Why does Casey allow the first two pitches to pass?
- How does the crowd respond to his confidence?
- What makes the final strikeout ironic rather than merely disappointing?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does confidence become the cause of defeat? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Confidence becomes the cause of defeat because Casey treats early pitches as beneath him and behaves as though success is guaranteed. The poem magnifies his control and grandeur so that the final miss reverses the very qualities that made everyone certain he would win.

EVIDENCE

Use one deliberate decision before strike three and one description that makes Casey seem larger than the moment.

WATCH FOR

Do not explain the loss as simply “he missed.” The lesson is about how the poem constructs overconfidence before the miss.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 7 · LESSON 274

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TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Final at-bat - strikes one through three

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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,

END

But there is no joy in Mudville--mighty Casey has struck out.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline Casey's deliberate choices on strikes one and two. Circle words that make him appear powerful or grand. Box the crowd's reactions. Star the final reversal.
2. NOTICE Why does Casey allow the first two pitches to pass? How does the crowd respond to his confidence? What makes the final strikeout ironic rather than merely disappointing?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does confidence become the cause of defeat?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.