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| Take Me Out to the Ballgame   Corinne skipped through the parking lot. She couldn’t hold back her excitement. Her family was going to the baseball stadium for the first time!  “Corinne, chill out,” said her brother, Jake. Jake was only two years older than Corinne, but he thought that gave him the authority to boss her around. Corinne slowed to a walk and waited for her family to catch up.  “I can’t help it,” she said. “I’ve never been to a baseball game before.”  Corinne had watched countless baseball games on television. Baseball was her favorite sport, and she had been a Chicago Cubs fan as long as she could remember. Corinne thought that the best moment of her life would be when the Cubs finally broke their curse and won the World Series. The team had been losing for decades, but she knew that sooner or later, they had to win.  But tonight her family wasn’t going to see the Cubs. They were going to see the Cougars, a new minor league team that had come to their town. Jake wasn’t excited about the game. He thought the minor leagues didn’t count. “The minor league is for players who aren’t good enough for the major league,” Jake always said. But Corinne liked the idea that these players weren’t famous yet. They were still training and learning, just like her. Maybe she’d see baseball’s next big star. Maybe he’d even sign a baseball for her.  “Mom,” Corinne said, “Can we wait outside the dugout after the game? I want to get some autographs.”  “Sure, we can,” said Corinne’s mother. “But let’s enjoy the game first.”  They pulled out their tickets and walked into the stadium. The stadium security guard checked Corinne’s mother’s purse and waved them through. “Mmmm,” Corinne breathed in deeply. The air smelled like a delicious mix of popcorn and soda. Corinne looked at the tickets and saw that they were sitting on the upper level, just past third base. They walked up the concrete stairs and found their seats as the first inning was beginning.  Corinne couldn’t decide whether to watch the field itself or the enormous screen behind the outfield. Her eyes darted back and forth between the two. The Cougars were pitching first. She cheered at the top of her lungs for every strike and booed when anyone on the other team, the Cyclones, got a hit. Even Jake looked like he was having fun, cheering just as loudly as Corinne.  The game was close. The Cougars would score, and then the Cyclones would score. Back and forth, the two teams battled. The Cyclones had a better pitcher, but the Cougars were quicker. Corinne especially liked the shortstop. He was short, like her, and he was really agile. No matter where the ball was, he was there first. He seemed to have a magic ability to predict its path and he was fast, smooth, and had perfect aim when getting the ball where it needed to be.  “Mom,” said Corinne, tugging on her mother’s sleeve. “What’s the shortstop’s name?”  Her mother looked through the program, searching. “Cory Alvarez,” she said. “Cory!” thought Corinne. “Just like me.”  By the end of the ninth inning, the teams were still tied, and the Cougars were up to bat. “This is it,” Corinne said to Jake. “If the Cougars can manage to score just one run, then we’ll win!”  “Don’t be such a baby,” said Jake. “It doesn’t really matter. It’s just the minor leagues.”  Although Jake seemed to be cool as a cucumber, he was leaning forward in his seat and watching the batter with interest.  The batter turned, and Corinne saw that it was her favorite player, Cory Alvarez. “Come on Cory,” she thought, “You can do it!”  Cory walked up to the home plate and tapped the bat on the ground twice. Then he lifted the bat and waited. The pitcher wound up and then threw a ball so fast, Corinne didn’t even see it. She heard the crack when the bat hit the ball, though, and saw the ball flying through the air toward third base. The ball sailed past the base, then over the stands and straight toward Corinne’s family. Corinne climbed up on her seat and put her hands out. She felt a sting and tumbled backwards as the baseball slammed into her palms. She tumbled out of the chair, and her parents kneeled over her. “Corinne! Corinne! Are you okay?”  Corinne looked at the ball in her hands and smiled. “I’m much more than okay,” she said. |

After Rosa finished reading the passage, the teacher prompts her to retell the story. Shown below is Rosa’s retelling of the story.

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| Corrine’s family went to a baseball game and they were all very excited, except for Jake. He said that this league wasn’t a very good one so he didn’t have fun and made fun of Corrine for being excited. Corrine was very excited for everything there, watching the players, smelling the food, and getting autographs after the game was over. Our family loves to go to the baseball games in the summer. I save my money to get popcorn and soda, too. Corrine like the shortstop because his name sounded like hers, and she said he was agile. I don’t know what that word means but maybe it means he was really cute or nice. At the end, Corrine still seemed to be very happy because even though I think she got stung by a bee and fell out of her seat. she was still smiling. I think maybe the player hit a home run, that is always exciting especially when your team wins. |

Using your knowledge of reading comprehension (e.g., literal comprehension, inferential comprehension, engagement of schema, context clues), write a response in which you:

* identify and discuss one of Rosa's strengths relating to reading comprehension; and
* identify and discuss one of Rosa's weaknesses relating to reading comprehension.

Be sure to cite specific evidence from the passage and the retelling to support your thoughts.