

October Classic Clues

Read the baseball story, then answer. Some answers are right in the text. Others need a smart guess with evidence. Made-up teams only!

Name _____

Date _____

READING TOOLKIT

Literal

find it right
in the text

Infer

use clues +
what you know

Vocab

word meaning
from context

Evidence

point to the
sentence that proves it

BEST OF SEVEN

4 WINS = TITLE

READ • THINK • PROVE

READ THE STORY

Game 7 at Harbor Field

1 Every fall, two baseball champions meet in a best-of-seven series called the **October Classic**. The first team to win four games takes the title. This year the **Harbor Herons** and the **Summit Sparks** were tied three games to three, so everything came down to Game 7 at Harbor Field, the Herons' home ballpark.

2 In the bottom of the ninth inning, the Sparks led 4-3. The Herons' dugout was quiet. Then **Maya Chen** ripped a double down the left-field line, and **Theo Blake** walked. With two runners on base and two outs, **Coach Rivera** called for a pinch hitter — a batter from the bench who steps in for someone else. **Jun Park** walked to the plate.

3 Jun waited for a fastball and drove it into the right-field gap. Maya scored the tying run. Theo raced home from first and slid across the plate just ahead of the throw — a **walk-off** win! The series was over: Herons 4, Sparks 3. In the bullpen, the relief pitchers jumped the fence and raced onto the field. "That," Coach Rivera said, "is why we never give up in the October Classic."

Made-up teams and players. Real World Series rule: best of seven — first to four wins.

ROOKIE

1 What is the name of the **home** team in Game 7?

WORK SPACE

ROOKIE

2 Before Game 7, how many wins did **each** team have in the series?

WORK SPACE

_____ - _____

STARTER

3 What does **best of seven** mean in this story?

WORK SPACE

STARTER

4 What was the score when the bottom of the ninth began? Write it as Herons–Sparks.

WORK SPACE

_____ - _____

PRO

5 Who hit the **double** that put the first runner on base in the ninth?

WORK SPACE

PRO

6 At the start of the ninth, how did the Herons' dugout seem to feel? Use one clue from the story.

ALL-STAR

7 In this story, what does a **pinch hitter** mean?

CHALLENGE ★

8 In this story, what does a **walk-off** win mean? Underline one sentence that helped you.

A Ballpark Words

Write the best word from the bank next to each meaning. Two words are not used.

OCTOBER CLASSIC RULES

Best of **7** games · First to **4** wins takes the title · A game usually has **9** innings

FROM THE STORY

Series before Game 7: **3-3** · Final series: **Heron 4, Sparks 3** · Walk-off in the **9th**

Word bank: bullpen · dugout · inning · RBI · shutout · walk-off

1 one of the nine parts of a baseball game

2 the bench area where players sit during the game

3 the area where relief pitchers warm up

4 a hit that ends the game when the home team takes the lead

B Story Sequence

Write the letters in the order the events happened, from first to last.

A Theo Blake draws a walk, putting two runners on base

B The Sparks lead 4-3 in the bottom of the ninth

C Theo slides home for a walk-off win

D Maya Chen rips a double down the left-field line

E Jun Park pinch-hits and drives the ball into the gap

Order of events:

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

STEP 4

STEP 5

Use each letter once.

C Think Deeper

Use the story. Write in complete thoughts when you can.

1 Who scored the **tying** run in the ninth inning?

2 Who scored the **winning** run that ended the series?

3 Compare the Herons at the **start** of the ninth with the Herons at the **end**. How did things change? Use one detail from the story.

BONUS · YOUR TURN

Write three sentences about a time you (or a team you know) came through when it mattered most — in sports, school, or a game with friends. Underline one feeling word.

1

2

3

Answer Key (for teachers & parents)

Answers for **October Classic Clues**, with sample wording where answers may vary. Print pages 1 and 2 for students, and keep this page for checking. For inference questions, accept answers that include a clue from the text.

Page 1 Problems

- Answer: **Harbor Herons**
Paragraph 1 names the Harbor Herons as the home side at Harbor Field.
- Answer: **3-3 (tied)**
Paragraph 1: "tied three games to three."
- Answer: **First team to win 4 games takes the title**
Stated in paragraph 1. Accept "win 4 before the other team."
- Answer: **3-4**
Paragraph 2: Sparks led 4-3, so Herons-Sparks is 3-4.
- Answer: **Maya Chen**
Paragraph 2: Maya Chen ripped a double.
- Answer: **Nervous / worried / quiet**
Clue: "The Herons' dugout was quiet." Accept similar feelings with a text clue.
- Answer: **A batter from the bench who steps in for someone else**
Defined in paragraph 2 after the dash.
- Answer: **The game ends when the home team takes the lead in the last inning**
Theo slides home for the win; series ends Herons 4, Sparks 3. Accept text-based wording.

Quick score

Page 1 problems	_____ / 8
A · Ballpark Words	_____ / 4
B · Story Sequence	_____ / 5
C · Think Deeper	_____ / 3
Total	_____ / 20

Skills practiced

Literal comprehension
Inference
Context vocabulary
Sequencing

Text evidence
Cause & effect

Teaching tip: Ask students to highlight the sentence that proves each answer. For inference questions, require a phrase from the text plus their own words.

Bonus: Check for three sentences and one underlined feeling word.

A · Ballpark Words

- Answer: **inning**
 - Answer: **dugout**
 - Answer: **bullpen**
 - Answer: **walk-off**
- Not used: **RBI · shutout**

B · Story Sequence

- Answer: **B, D, A, E, C**
Sparks lead, then Maya doubles, then Theo walks, then Jun pinch-hits, then Theo scores the walk-off.

C · Think Deeper

- Answer: **Maya Chen**
Maya scored the tying run after Jun's hit.
- Answer: **Theo Blake**
Theo raced home from first for the walk-off.
- Answer: **Answers vary**
Must note a change (quiet dugout to celebrating, or trailing to winning) with a story detail.