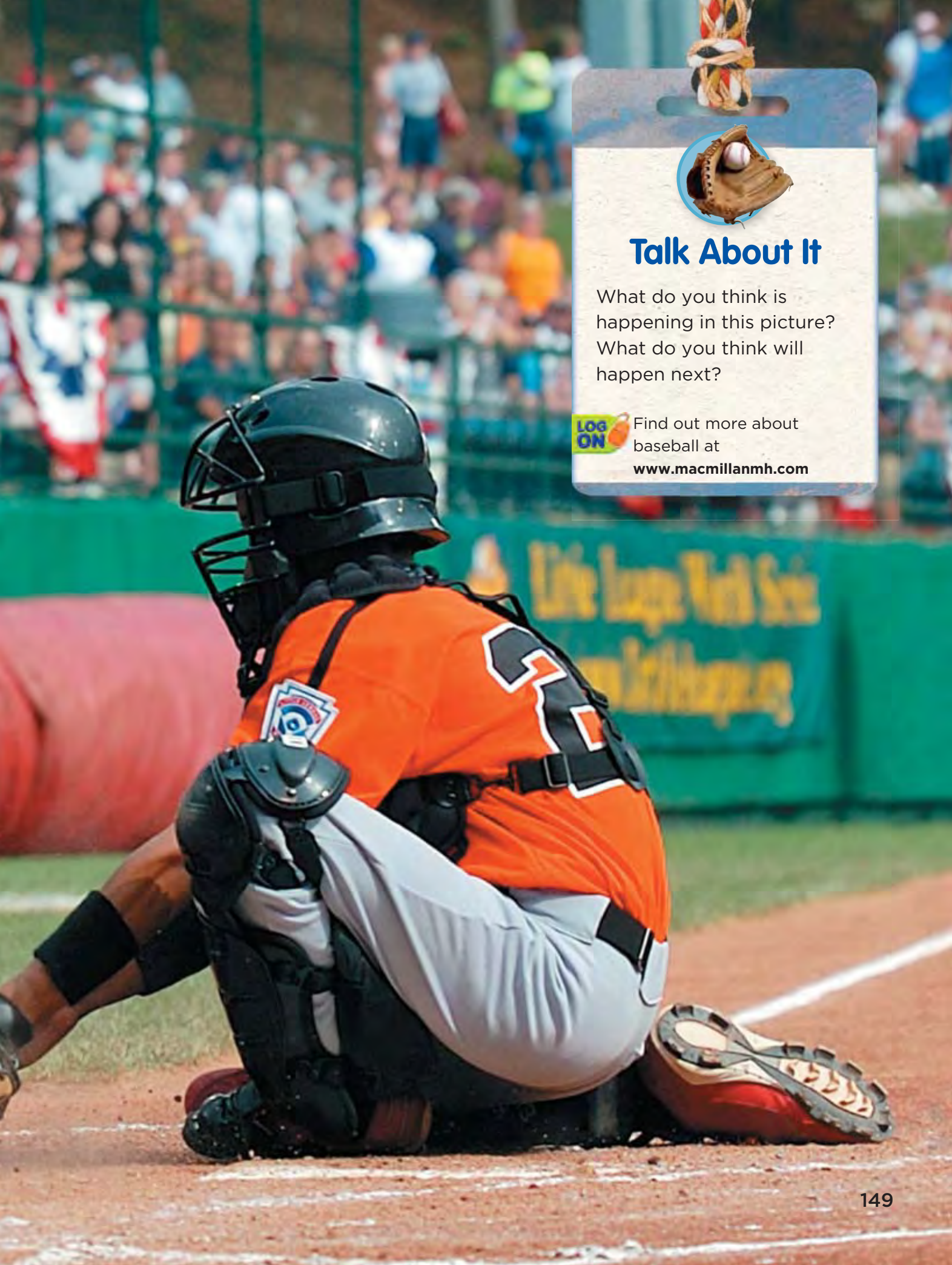




BASEBALL



Talk About It

What do you think is happening in this picture?
What do you think will happen next?



Find out more about
baseball at

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Vocabulary

legendary insult
muttered fluke
gaped flinched
snickering



Context Clues

Descriptions in the text can help you figure out what a word means. Figure out the meaning of *snickering*.

WOMEN PICK UP THE BALL

by Jenny Hull

Lucy's class was at Cooperstown—site of the **legendary** Baseball Hall of Fame. Lucy wasn't thrilled to be there. "Who cares about the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League?" Lucy **muttered** quietly to herself.

The League's Beginning

The guide explained that in 1942, most young men were being drafted to fight World War II. Some feared that major league baseball parks would close. But Philip Wrigley, the owner of the Chicago Cubs, decided to start a girls' league. Some may have **gaped** at the idea, but it soon caught on.

Lucy wondered what it was like for those girls. If people laughed in a mean way, did they notice the baseball fans **snickering**?

Woman baseball player makes a leaping catch.

The League Succeeds

Girls as young as 15 tried out for the league. The \$45 to \$85 a week salaries were a big draw. That might seem like an **insult** today, but back then it was a lot of money.

Players had to follow strict rules of behavior and take classes. They were taught how to dress, act, and take care of themselves.



Walking with blocks on their heads for balance and posture

The success of the league was no **fluke**. During the war, many women worked in factories. This changed the image of what women could do.

The League Ends

After the war ended, interest lessened and the league fell apart. One reason was that many people got TVs in the early 1950s. They could watch major league games without buying a ticket or leaving the house!

Time to Leave

Lucy **flinched** when her teacher called the class together. She wasn't ready to leave. She wanted to learn more. But Lucy would have to wait until her next visit to learn more about this interesting time in baseball history.

Reread for Comprehension



Make Inferences and Analyze

Author's Purpose An author's purpose is the reason he or she wrote a selection. To learn an author's purpose, you usually must make inferences and analyze information.

An Author's Purpose Map can help you decide if the author's purpose is to inform, to persuade, or to entertain. Reread the selection to find clues to the author's purpose.

