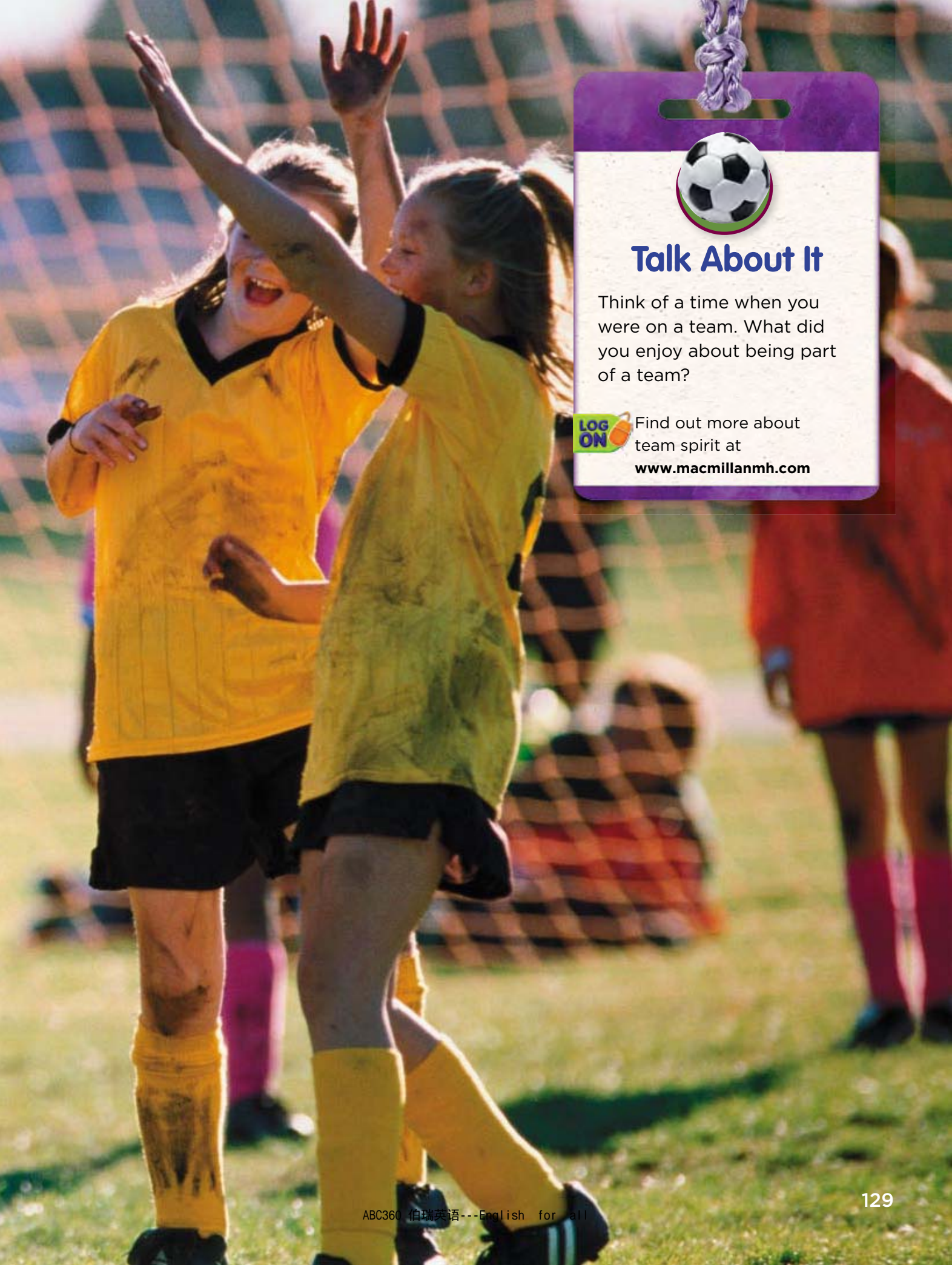


Team Spirit





Talk About It

Think of a time when you were on a team. What did you enjoy about being part of a team?



Find out more about team spirit at

www.macmillanmh.com

Vocabulary

enthralled
embarrassment
pennant
regulation
grouchy
resemblance
inscribed
postmarked

Word Parts

Inflectional Endings are added to words to change their form or tense.

-ed = past tense of verb

postmarked = past tense of *postmark*

An Aunt's Baseball Dreams

by Danielle Martin

Maybe it's my love of baseball that connects my great-aunt Helen and me. She has always kept me **enthralled** with her stories of playing baseball back in the 1940s. I would listen to these stories over and over. She used to say, "Go after what you want, Sarah. Don't be ashamed of failing. Real **embarrassment** comes from never trying."

Aunt Helen should know. In 1943, she was one of the young women who tried out for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. This league was created to entertain baseball fans because many of America's young men were fighting in World War II.

Aunt Helen had heard rumors that a team would play right in South Bend, Indiana. She dreamed of what it would be like to win a championship for her hometown! She imagined a large **pennant** hanging at the baseball field, and on this banner the name Helen Baker would be there for all to see.

On the day of the tryouts, Aunt Helen played baseball for hours with many young women. For this new league, some of the rules were different from the rules for regular softball. They still used a standard **regulation** softball, but the bases and pitcher's mound were placed at longer distances, for example.



All the rules were explained by a **grouchy** man in a suit. Aunt Helen said that wearing a suit in the hot sun was what put him in a bad mood. But he had a **resemblance** to Aunt Helen's father. And if he looked like her father, she thought, he couldn't be bad.

About a week later, Aunt Helen collected the mail and found an envelope with her name **inscribed** in blue ink. The envelope was **postmarked** from Chicago. The letter was from the leaders of the girls' baseball league, who were located in Chicago! Aunt Helen tore it open and learned that she had been invited to the league's main tryouts!

But as the days went by, Aunt Helen became worried about traveling to Chicago alone. What if she went all that way and failed? When the day of the tryouts came, she was too afraid to go.



Team members go over the play book.



Aunt Helen has spent the rest of her life wondering what would have happened if she had gone to those tryouts. Because of this, she never missed another opportunity in her life. She learned that every dream is worth chasing, even if you catch only a few of them.

Reread for Comprehension



Generate Questions

Make Inferences

As you read, ask yourself what is happening. Sometimes a writer does not tell you everything. When you make inferences, you use clues from the story plus your own knowledge to understand what is not directly stated.

Use the Inferences Chart as you reread "An Aunt's Baseball Dreams."

Text Clues and Prior Knowledge	Inference