



Collections



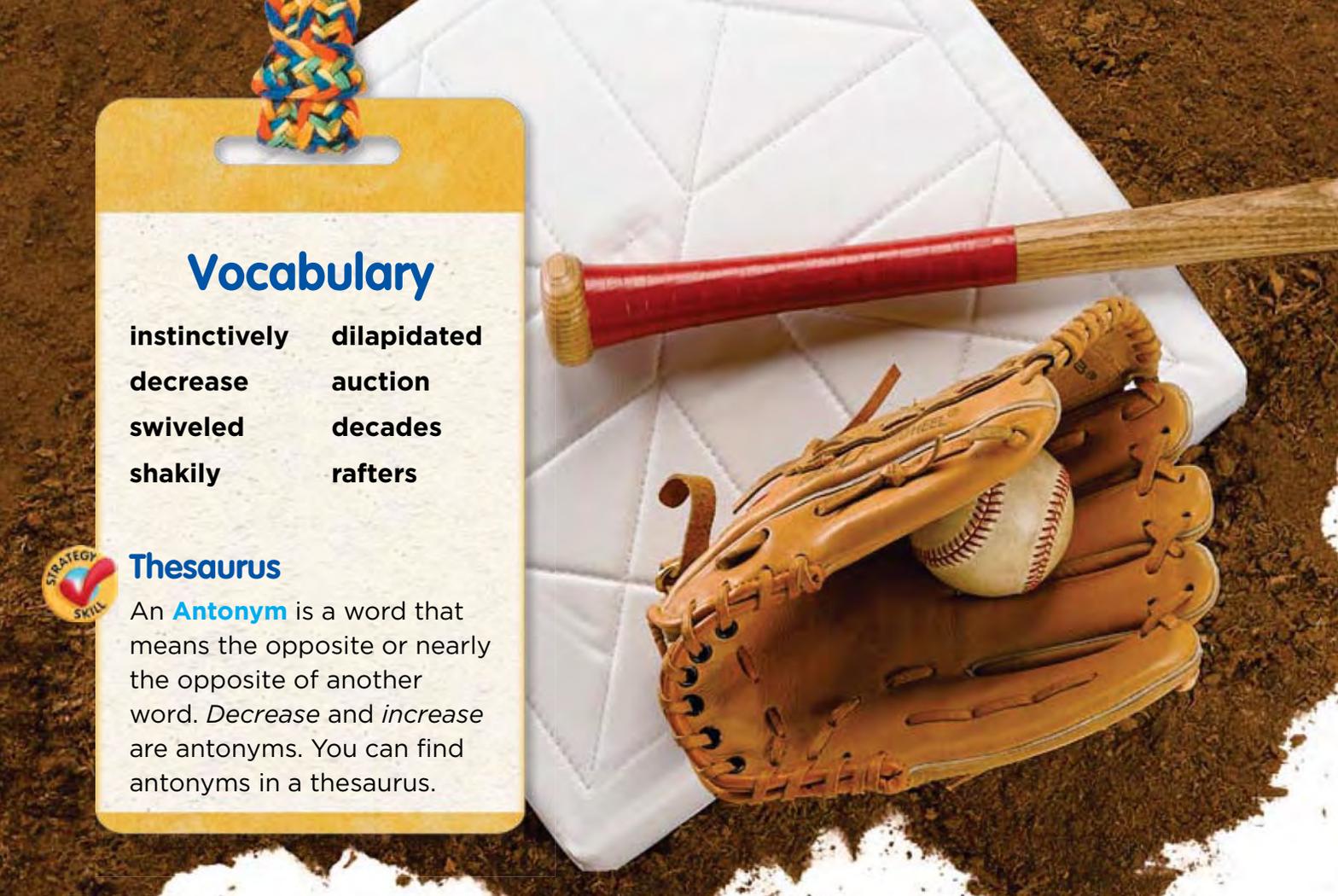
Talk About It

What do the boys in this photo collect? If you could collect anything in the world, what would it be? Why?



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A photograph of a baseball glove, bat, and ball on a field. The glove is brown leather with a white baseball inside. The bat is wooden with a red grip. The background is a mix of white and brown dirt.

Vocabulary

instinctively dilapidated
decrease auction
swiveled decades
shakily rafters

A circular icon with a red heart and the words 'STRATEGY' and 'SKILL' around it.

Thesaurus

An **Antonym** is a word that means the opposite or nearly the opposite of another word. *Decrease* and *increase* are antonyms. You can find antonyms in a thesaurus.

GRANDPA and ME

by Susan Reilly

For six weeks in the summer of 1986, I went to live with my grandfather. When my mom first told me about the plans, without thinking, I **instinctively** groaned. Somewhere inside me a voice told me that I would be miserable. This meant no afternoon baseball games with my neighborhood friends. Plus, I just knew my popularity would **decrease**, or lessen, if I wasn't around all summer.

The first week with Grandpa was fine. We went out to dinner and

watched TV together. One day, Grandpa was sitting at the table reading the newspaper. I sat on the couch and flipped through my baseball card collection. I had all my cards in a binder with plastic sleeve protectors. "Wish I had a Hank Aaron card," I muttered to myself.

When Grandpa heard me, he **swiveled** around on his chair so fast that the wheels almost flew off! He said, "I didn't know you liked baseball, Susan."

I explained that it was my favorite sport and that I usually play it all summer with my friends. Grandpa stood up **shakily**, balancing himself with his hand on the wall, and walked to the door. "Let's go," he said, smiling. "I want to show you something."

We drove for quite a while, and when Grandpa finally stopped the car, we were in front of some **dilapidated** old houses. They were abandoned and falling apart. A sign on each house said "Land will be sold to highest bidder. City Hall **auction**. Call for details." I started to say something, but I noticed that Grandpa had a faraway look in his eyes. "I haven't been here for **decades**," he whispered, "probably twenty or thirty years."

We walked onto one of the old porches. Grandpa pointed down the street and said, "That's the field where I used to play baseball every summer." Then I realized where we were: This was the house Grandpa grew up in! We peeked inside a window to see a big mess. The ceiling was falling down so that you could see the wooden **rafters**, or beams, hidden behind it. No one had lived here for a long time.

On the ride home, Grandpa was very quiet. I thought about how he must miss his old home and the friends he grew up with. Then I realized that six weeks away from home was not too bad, especially with Grandpa around.

Reread for Comprehension



Evaluate

Make Judgments

Good readers usually make judgments while they are reading. Evaluating the actions of the characters helps readers make judgments about the characters.

You can use a Judgment Chart to help you evaluate the characters in a story. Use the chart as you reread "Grandpa and Me."

Action	Judgment