

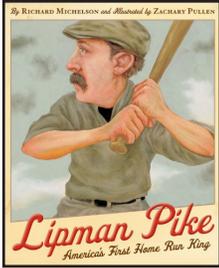


# CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

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## LIPMAN PIKE



Richard Michelson  
Sleeping Bear Press,  
©2010  
978-1-58536-465-7

Lipman Pike is credited with being the first professional baseball player (then called “base”). This is the story of his childhood, the development of his skills, and how he came to be “professional”.

## JOURNAL WRITING

Picture books lend themselves to a journal response, because they are really short to read and because they are often also useful for other writing purposes. Here are four suggestions for *Lipman Pike*:

- A story about something you like to do that your parents are not sure is a good idea.
- A story about something you are very good at. (Lipman Pike was good at running and hitting a ball.)
- A time when you worked with your parents (Lipman Pike worked in his dad’s store)

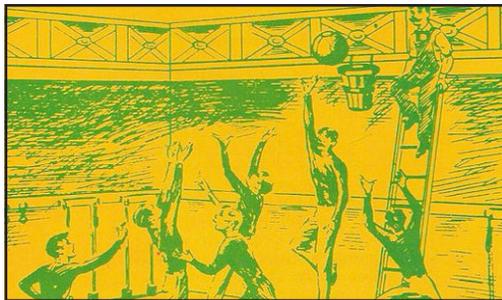
## RACING A HORSE

As a listening skill, ask the students to listen for the number of times that someone in the story mentions that they think Lipman Pike could outrun a racehorse. When you finish, tell them that he did once race a horse and won.

## THE HISTORY OF A SPORT

Working in small groups, students could investigate the origins of various common sports. This can be turned into a quick class presentation from each group with students sharing the task of presenting. If each group prepares an outline, a portion can be assigned to each member. If you have time, this oral language experience could become an illustrated Powerpoint. Sample sports could include:

- basketball
- football
- hockey
- golf
- tennis
- soccer
- polo
- badminton



## BOSS TWEED

In passing it is mentioned that Boss Tweed paid Lipman Pike “under the table” to play for New York. Students may be interested in the extent of corruption of Boss Tweed who stole from \$25 to \$200 million dollars from the city of New York through bribes, extortion, and buying real estate which he would get the city to improve and then sell at a profit.

## AMATEUR VS. PROFESSIONAL

When the Olympic Games started in Greece thousands of years ago, all players were to be amateurs. The only prize was a wreath, and not a wreath of gold either. After a while, your “home town” started to offer prizes, “steal” good players from other towns, etc. In other words, the participants became professionals.

The modern Olympic Games have an edge of professionalism. It began when the USSR gave elite status to their athletes. Eventually the professional hockey players of North America were allowed to play in the Olympics, becoming temporary “amateurs”.

Discuss with students what the penalties should be for:

- Paying an amateur outright.
- Giving an amateur perks such as an apartment, an easy job that pays really well, a car.
- Giving money to the parents of an amateur.
- Betting on a sport if you are a professional player, etc.