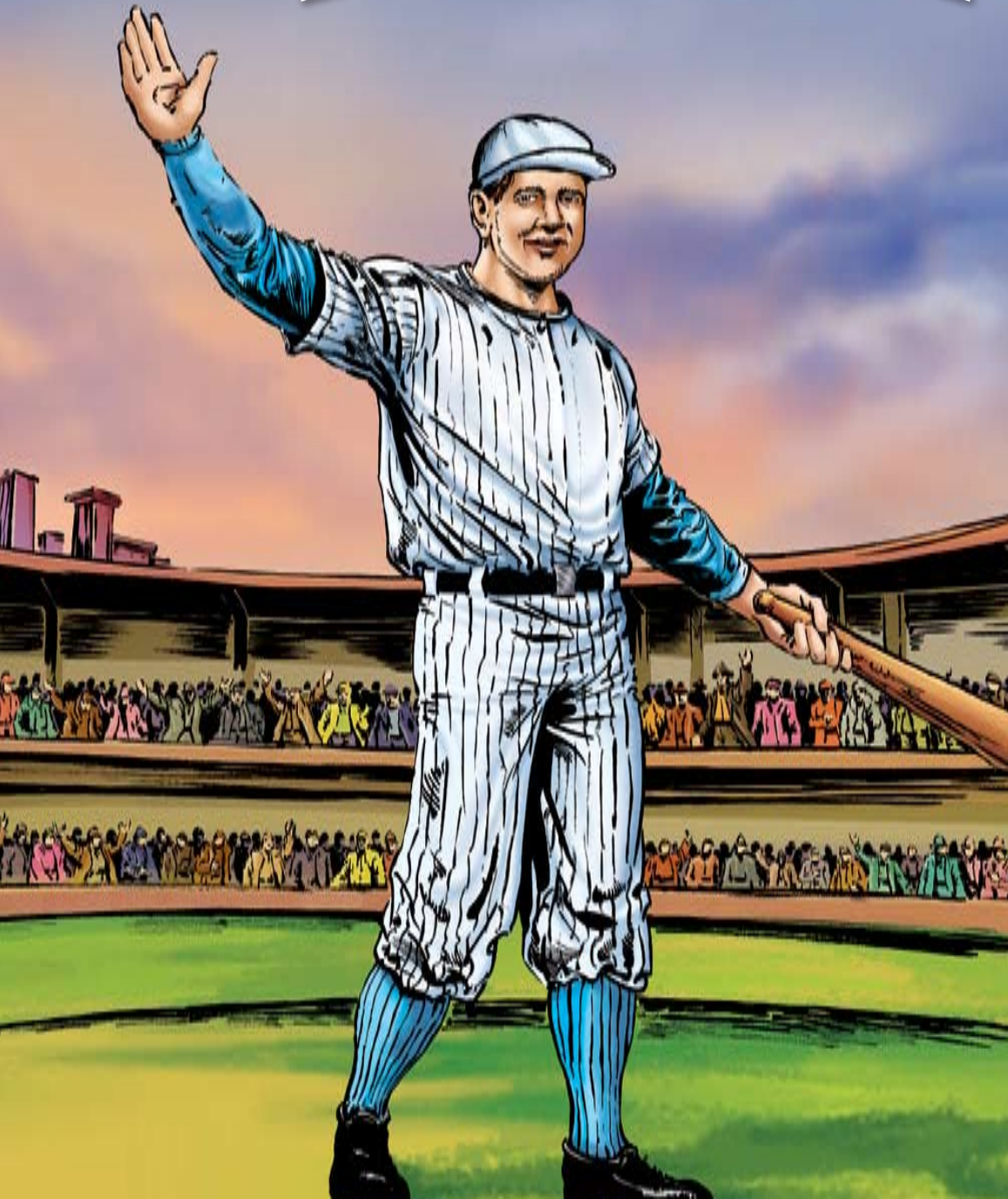


**GRAPHIC
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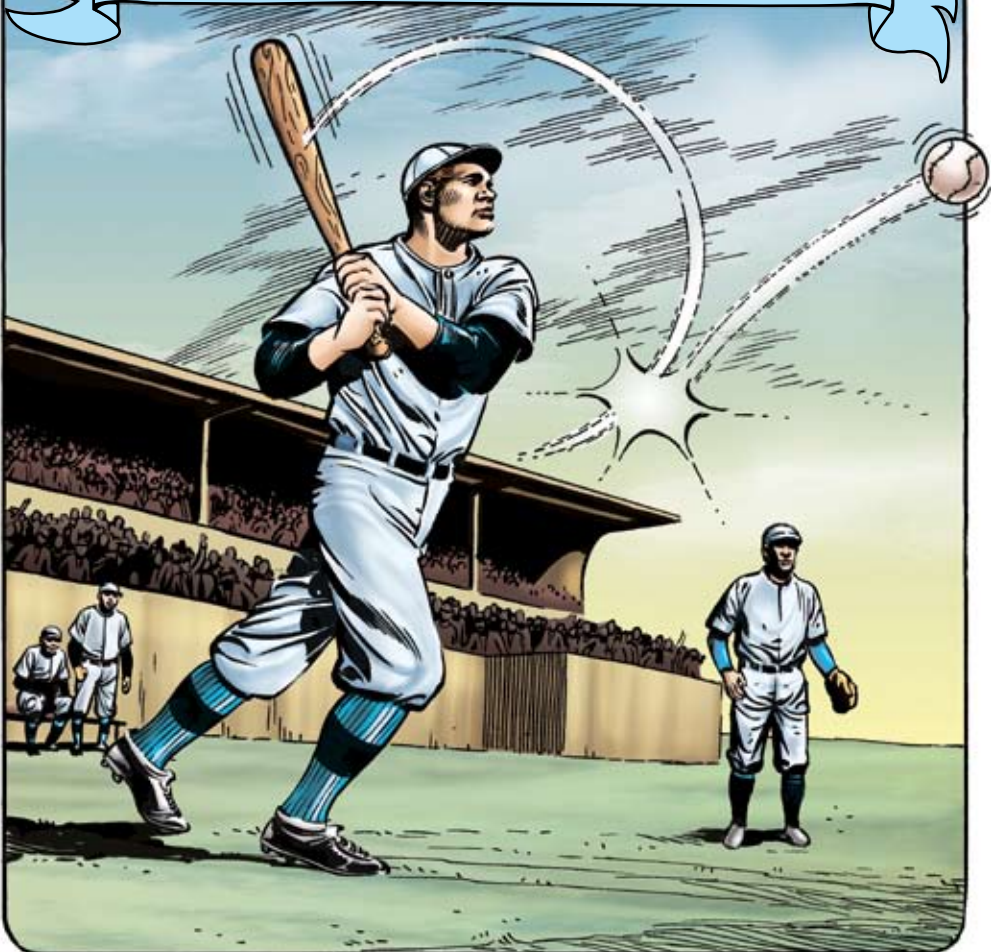
BABE RUTH





BABE RUTH

The year was 1914. It was the Baltimore Orioles' first game in spring training camp. A nineteen-year-old rookie was at bat. He swung, the ball went up, and up, and out over the fence.





That's the longest ball ever hit at this field! Who is that guy?

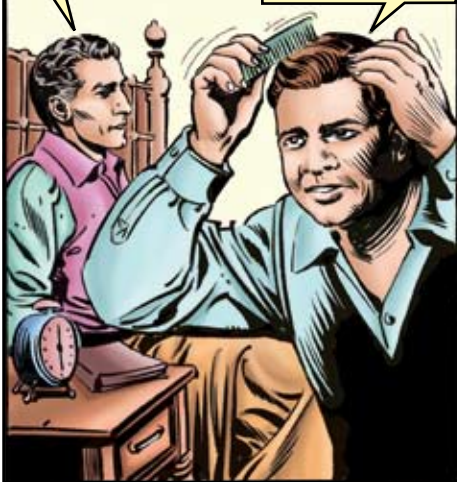
Some rookie named Ruth!

It was Babe Ruth's first game as a professional player.

And the next day ...

What's the matter? Why are you up so early?

Just habit. Always had to be up early at St. Mary's.



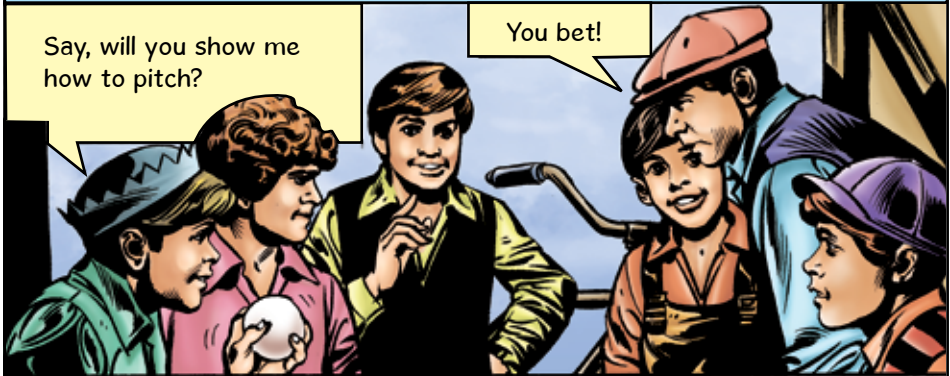
He left the hotel.

Which way's the railroad station?

Right down that-a-way, sir!



Babe made friends with boys who hung around the practice field.



Say, will you show me how to pitch?

You bet!



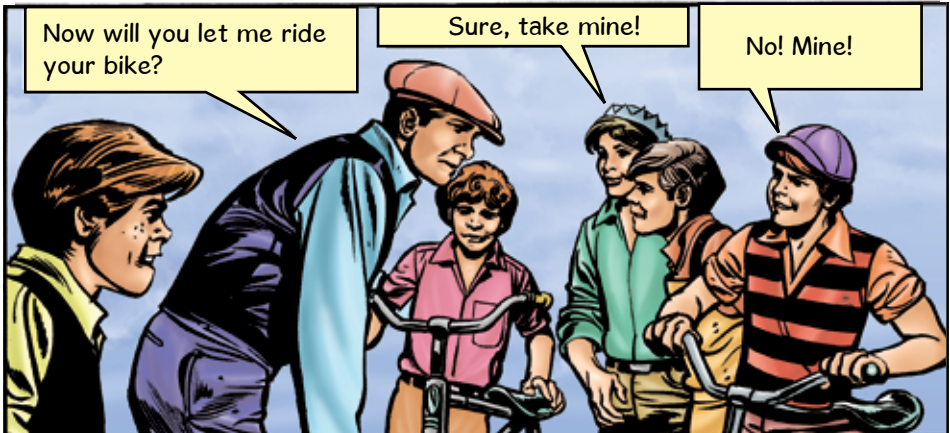
You hold the ball like this ...



Then the windup ...



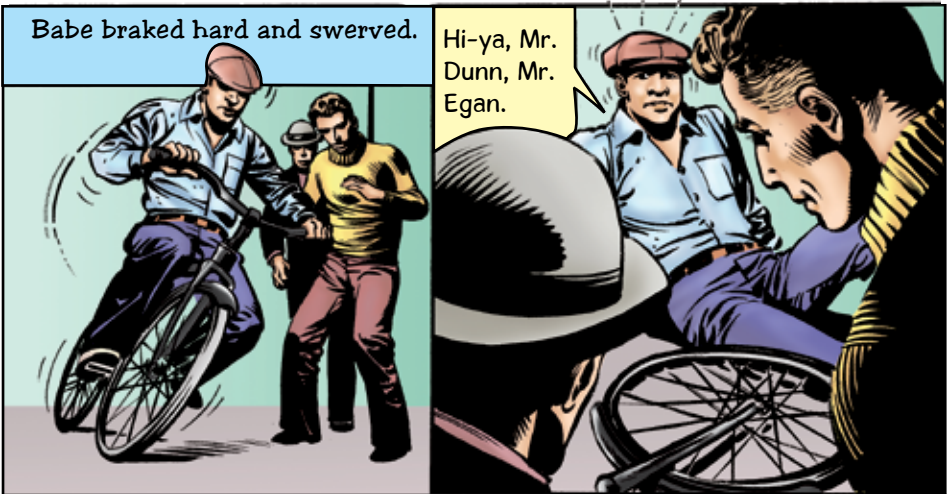
Then you throw and follow through!



Now will you let me ride your bike?

Sure, take mine!

No! Mine!



Jack Dunn was owner and manager of the Orioles. Egan was the catcher and field captain.



But in the late afternoon, there was an hour or two for games. The favorite was baseball. The school had forty teams.

Soon *George* was playing on one of them.

It's unusual to see a southpaw* as a catcher.

George is a good one!

Later ...

George, you're big for your age, and a good player. We'll put you on an older boys' team.

That'll be swell!

Then there was another change.

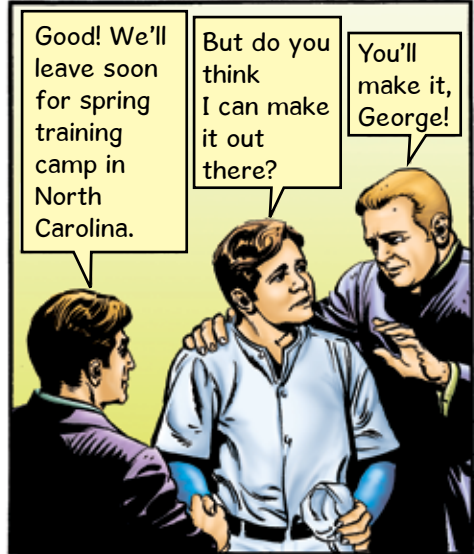
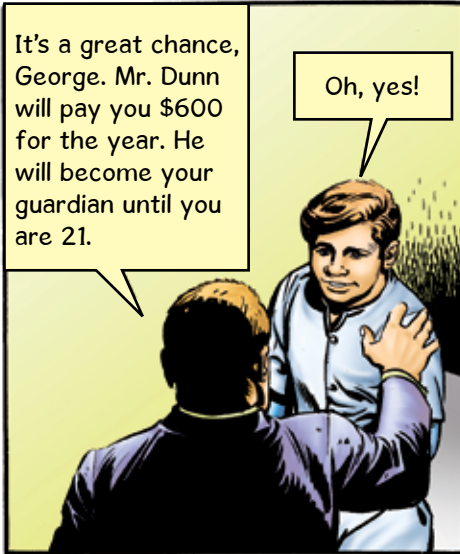
We need a pitcher on our star team. Why don't you try it?

Gosh! I don't know how to pitch!

You're big, and left-handed, and you throw hard. I think I can teach you.

Soon Brother Matthias made a pitcher out of *George*.

* in sports, a player who throws with the left hand



Soon George left St. Mary's. He took his first train ride, to Fayetteville, and followed Jack Dunn out onto the field.



"Babe" was a common baseball word for rookies. But from then on, George Ruth was known as "Babe." It suited him.

He had spent most of his life at St. Mary's. He didn't know about trains or hotels or bicycles or money. But he knew about baseball.

In his first game, he hit the ball farther than any had ever seen in that park before or since.



The Orioles went on the road. He pitched his first complete game against the best team in baseball, the Philadelphia Athletics.



The regular season began.

During training, the club paid your expenses. Now you get a salary, \$50 every two weeks.



Thanks! I never had more than five dollars at once before!

See that you take care of it!



They were married at St. Paul's Catholic Church, near Baltimore.

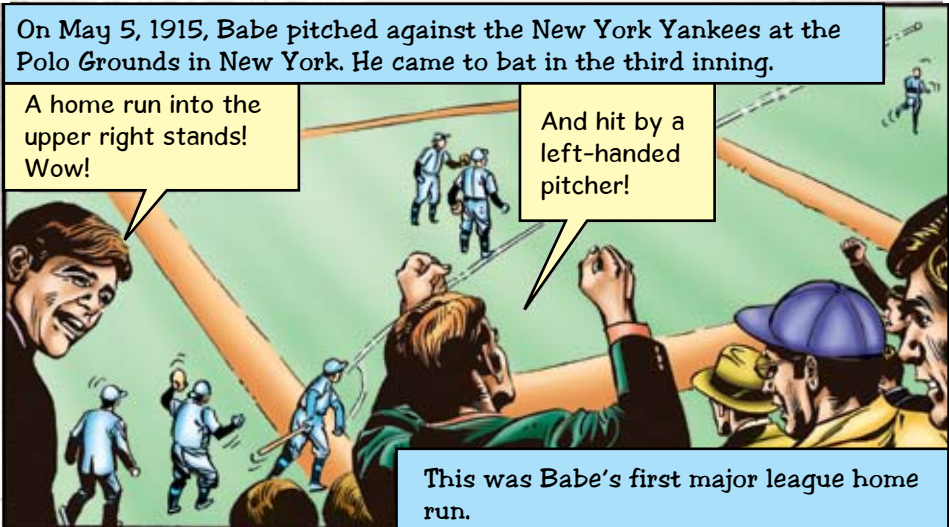


Babe was only twenty-years-old, but he had a job in the major leagues and a good salary. In a few months, he had come a long way.

On May 5, 1915, Babe pitched against the New York Yankees at the Polo Grounds in New York. He came to bat in the third inning.

A home run into the upper right stands! Wow!

And hit by a left-handed pitcher!

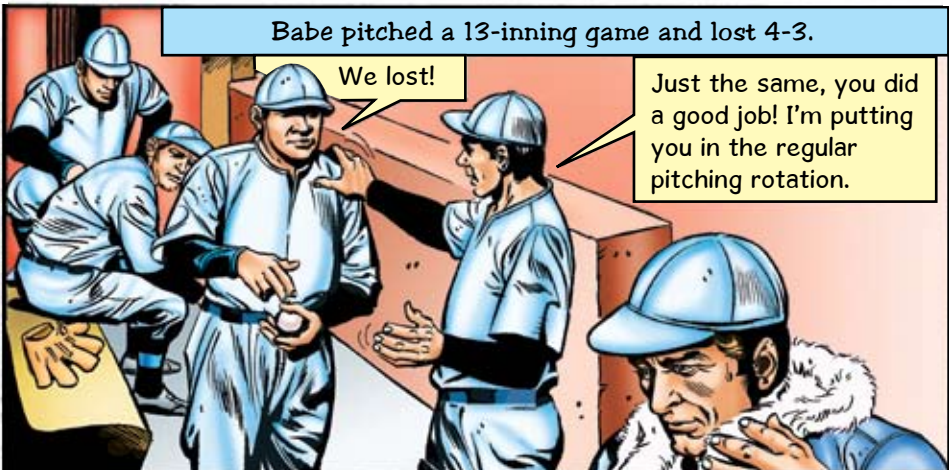


This was Babe's first major league home run.

Babe pitched a 13-inning game and lost 4-3.

We lost!


Just the same, you did a good job! I'm putting you in the regular pitching rotation.



In 1916 Babe had a great season. The fans loved him.

What a guy! Twenty-three wins and nine shutouts.

And he hit three home runs in one game!





Once again, the Red Sox were world champions. Babe pitched a 14-inning game—the longest ever played in a World Series game.

In 1918 the Red Sox had a new manager, Ed Barrow.

You're a star pitcher, Babe, but you're also a great hitter. And you like to hit.

Suppose you play the outfield on the days you don't pitch. That way we can use you every day instead of every fourth day.

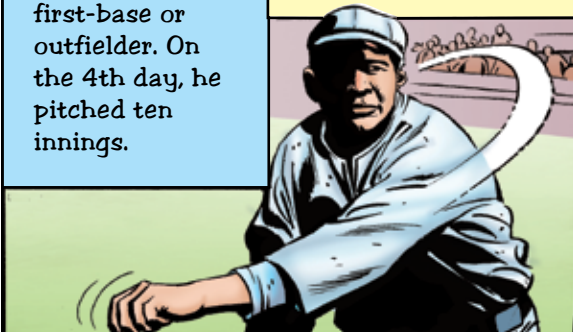

I think I will hit better if I can play every day.

For the next three days, Babe Ruth played first-base or outfielder. On the 4th day, he pitched ten innings.

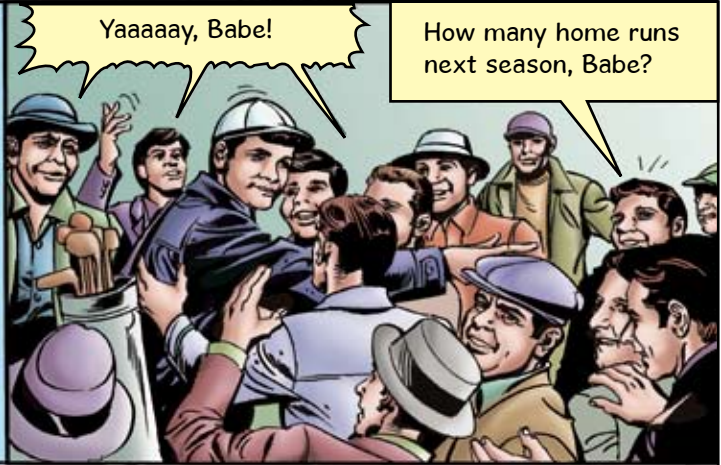
This guy's the best! Three home runs in three days, and his batting average is up to .484.

And the fans love it!

That season, Babe hit eleven home runs. It was the beginning of a new era in baseball.

And when Babe reported to the Yankees to take the train for spring training camp, he was mobbed by happy New York fans.



Yaaaaay, Babe!

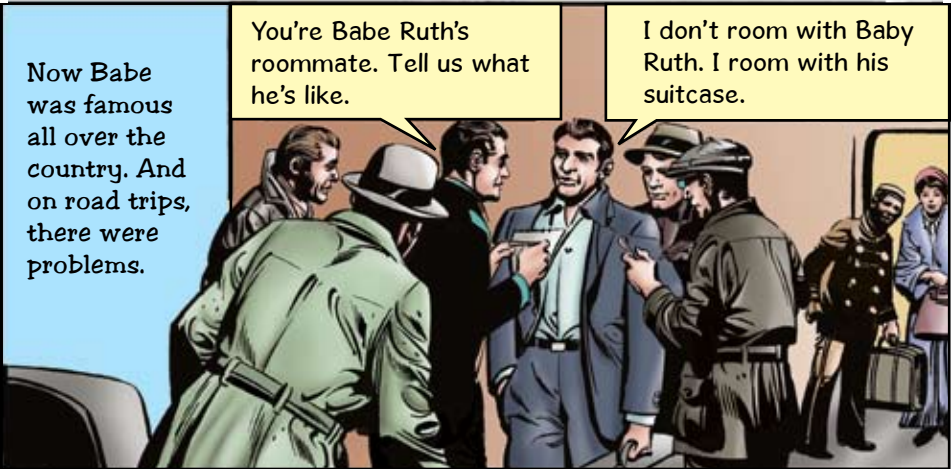
How many home runs next season, Babe?

He started the season in a slump. But on May 1st he hit his first home run.



Come on, big boy!

Now Babe was famous all over the country. And on road trips, there were problems.



You're Babe Ruth's roommate. Tell us what he's like.

I don't room with Baby Ruth. I room with his suitcase.