




Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
1	2	3	4	5
<b>King of the Mound</b>				
chaps. 1–2 	chap. 3	chaps. 4–5 	chap. 6 	

## Day 1

### **King of the Mound** | Chapters 1–2

**Note to Mom or Dad:** Show your children the chapter title and explain that each chapter is named for an inning in baseball. There are nine innings with the visiting team up to bat first. This is called the “Top of the First”. When the home team takes the field, that is the “Bottom of the First”.

#### Setting

Bismarck, North Dakota; 1935; during the Depression.

#### Overview

A diagnosis of polio keeps Nick from reaching his potential in baseball while straining the relationship with his distant father. When working for the local team, Nick meets Satchel Paige, arguably the best player in baseball. Satchel faces obstacles of his own, and he encourages Nick to overcome the odds and get off the bench. *King of the Mound* is inspiring historical fiction about baseball and the segregation of the past.

#### Vocabulary

**Polio (Poliomyelitis):** is an infectious viral disease creating an inflammation that affects the spinal cord. Vaccines have eradicated polio in all but a small amount of countries in the world. [chap. 1]

**iron lung:** full body machine used for paralyzed polio victims to help them breathe. [chap. 1]

**Mayo Clinic:** famous experimental training hospital.

**cripple:** outdated term for someone unable to walk or move properly. [chap. 1]

**semipro club:** Blacks were not allowed to play in the Major League until 1947. [chap. 1]

**dilapidated:** run-down as a result of age or disuse. [chap. 1]

**Dust Bowl:** a ferocious series of windstorms that blew away the topsoil; occurred during the 1930’s. [chap. 2]


**outhouse:** a small building serving as an outdoor toilet. [chap. 2]

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: How severe is Nick’s polio? [chap. 1]  
 A: *he was hospitalized for a year with nerve damage, and has to wear a brace from the top of his thigh to just above his ankle; but he is better than many others in the hospital with nerve damage and paralysis and some couldn’t breathe on their own*
- Q: How did his dad act when he came to pick up Nick? What do you think of this reaction? [chap. 1]  
 A: *his first concern was if the brace was permanent and if his son would be able to pitch or play ball; called his son a “cripple”*
- Q: Why was Satchel Paige considered one of the world’s greatest pitchers?  
 A: *he had invented a collection of unusual pitches, he had tremendous control, people found it impossible to get a hit off him, etc*

#### Timeline and Map Activities

 **Satchel Paige (1906–1982)**

 Bismarck (C6); Minneapolis (C7); Fargo (C7) (map 1)

## Day 2

### **King of the Mound** | Chapter 3

#### Vocabulary

**roster:** a list of names in an organization or team.

**Joe DiMaggio:** a center fielder who played 13 seasons with the New York Yankees, he held a 56 game hitting streak.

**Hopalong Cassidy:** a fictional cowboy hero.

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: What was Mr. Churchill’s first assignment for Nick?  
 A: *to break in the gloves before giving them to the players*
- Q: What did Nick do to the gloves to get them ready?  
 A: *he rubbed each glove with linseed oil, threw a ball into it at least 30 times and then shoved a ball into the pocket and tied it up with a towel*
- Q: What was his second job?  
 A: *to collect the names and birthdays of the players*

Q: What nickname did Satchel give Nick? Why?

A: *Hopalong; because Nick hopped along and it was a nickname of a cowboy*

## Day 3

### **King of the Mound** | Chapters 4–5

#### Vocabulary

**orderlies:** works in a hospital with routine tasks. [chap. 4]

**“playing pepper”:** practice exercise where one player hits ground balls to outfielders. [chap. 5]

#### To Discuss After You Read

Q: How did Nick help Satchel? [chap. 4]

A: *he told the police officer that Satchel was a famous pitcher, that he had the car yesterday at the game, so the officer let him go*

Q: What does Satchel’s comment to Nick mean? “Ain’t no man can avoid being born average, but there ain’t no man got to be common.”

A: *although we are all born equal, we can achieve*


Q: Mr. Churchill believes Nick should “give people an opportunity” if he wants to sell the programs. How could he do this? [chap. 5]


A: *convince people they would be owning a genuine collector’s program, timeless memento*

Q: What happened to Nick’s dad?

A: *he wasn’t going to be starting catcher anymore, and was thinking of quitting*

#### Timeline and Map Activities

 Jamestown, North Dakota (C6) (map 1)

 Croatia (E7) (map 2)

## Day 4

### **King of the Mound** | Chapter 6

#### Vocabulary

**tuberculosis:** a contagious, often deadly bacterial disease that attacks the lungs.





#### To Discuss After You Read

Q: Why did Nick’s father get mean?

A: *when his wife died, he stopped laughing and he barked at Nick possibly because Nick looked like his mother; plus life was hard*

#### Timeline and Map Activities

 Missouri River (E6) (map 1) ■

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
6	7	8	9	10
<b>King of the Mound</b>				
chaps. 7–8 	chaps. 9–10 	chaps. 11–12 	chaps. 13–14 	

## Day 1

**King of the Mound** | Chapters 7–8

## Vocabulary

“... just as the crowd was reduced to **dregs**.” (*the last remaining part*) [chap. 8]

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**bayou**: water found in a low lying area; marshy. [chap. 7]

**barnstorm**: to travel from place to place to play local teams. [chap. 8]

**Ty Cobb**: an American Major League Baseball outfielder (1886–1961) [chap. 8]

**cogitate**: deeply consider. [chap. 8]

**akimbo**: a body position where hands are on the hips and elbows bowed outward. [chap. 8]

**pandemonium**: a very noisy place. [chap. 8]

## To Discuss After You Read

Q: Where did Satch take Nick? Why was that unusual? [chap. 7]

A: *to an Indian reservation; white people didn't go there*

Q: What did they get at the reservation? [chap. 7]

A: *“Magic Potion” that Satch uses on his arm; Nick is to try it on his leg*


Q: Did Nick use the medicine? What happened? [chap. 7]

A: *yes; it burned, but he was able to go outside without his brace*

Q: What bet did Mr. Churchill make with Nick? [chap. 8]

A: *if Nick gives away all the flyers he will get to go on the road trip*

## Timeline and Map Activities

 *Mason-Dixon Line (D10); Pittsburg (D10); Mobile, AL (G7) (map 1)*

## Day 2

**King of the Mound** | Chapters 9–10

## Vocabulary

“... he was throwing **pure gas**.” (*fast ball*) [chap. 9]

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## To Discuss After You Read

Q: What big decision did Nick make? [chap. 9]

A: *to not wear his brace*


Q: Did anything happen to Nick as a result of not wearing his brace? Why was it significant? [chap. 9]

A: *a kid bumped into him from behind at the end of the game and he fell to the ground; he couldn't pitch if he was so unstable*

Q: Why couldn't the team find a place to sleep in McPherson? [chap. 10]

A: *races had to be segregated*

## Timeline and Map Activities

 *Watertown (C7); Sioux Falls (C7); Sioux City (D7); Norfolk (D6); Fremont (D6); Grand Island (D6); Hastings (D6); McPherson, KS (E6); Cuba (I9) (map 1)*

## Day 3

**King of the Mound** | Chapters 11–12

## Vocabulary

“We don't put up with **bellyaching** in this town.” (*persistent complaining*) [chap. 11]

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**chiseler**: someone who cheats. [chap. 11]

**pitcher's mound**: a slight elevation on which the pitcher stands. [chap. 12].

**Prohibition:** a time in United States history (1920–1933) which the manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquor was made illegal. [chap. 12]

**running liquor:** transporting alcoholic beverages illegally. [chap. 12]

**commensurate:** equal or similar to something. [chap. 12]

#### To Discuss After You Read


Q: Describe how the first umpire treated the Bismarck boys. [chap. 11]

A: *answers may vary; the umpire didn't make fair calls*

Q: How did the game end? [chap. 11]

A: *just Satch and Quincy went onto the field and Satch struck out three players*

#### Timeline and Map Activities

 *Aberdeen, SD (C6); Columbus, NE (D6); Wichita, KS (E6); Michigan (C9); Arkansas River (F7) (map 1)*

## Day 4

### **King of the Mound** | Chapters 13–14

#### To Discuss After You Read

Q: What did Wild Bill ask of Mr. Churchill and his team? Why did Nick find the conversation confusing? [chap. 13]

A: *to participate and win the national semi-professional baseball tournament; he couldn't tell who was speaking truthfully*

Q: Why did Satch tell Nick the story about his brother? [chap. 14]



A: *so Nick would understand not to let fear get between him and what he wants, and to believe in himself*

Q: Why did Satch meet with Wild Bill? [chap. 14]

A: *to negotiate higher pay for the tournament*

#### Timeline and Map Activities

 *Grand Forks (B7) (map 1)* ■

Day 1	11	Day 2	12	Day 3	13	Day 4	14	Day 5	15
<b>King of the Mound</b>									
chaps. 15–16 		chaps. 17–18 							
<b>The Children of Noisy Village</b>									
				chaps. 1–3		chaps. 4–6			

## Day 1

**King of the Mound** | Chapters 15–16


## Vocabulary

**boardinghouse:** lodging where meals are provided. [chap. 16]

## To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Did the team get a higher pay? If so, what was it? [chap. 15]  
A: *a bonus of \$1000 for every win*
- Q: Why was Nick happy to see his father and Emma's mother together? [chap. 15]  
A: *he wanted his dad to be happy, if he was happy then maybe they will get to stay in Bismarck and his dad wouldn't be so mean*
- Q: Why was Mr. Churchill's team unique?  
A: *it was the only team that combined black and white players*
- Q: What problem did Mr. Churchill and his team face when they arrived at the tournament? [chap. 16]  
A: *people didn't think both races should compete for the same prize*

## Timeline and Map Activities

-  St. Cloud, MN (C7); Lawrence (D6); Wichita (E6); Fort Smith, AK (E6); Shelby, NC (E9) (map 1)

## Day 2

**King of the Mound** | Chapters 17–18

## Vocabulary


**valise:** a small suitcase. [chap. 17]

**MVP:** most valuable player. [chap. 17]

## To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Who became the new team manager? Why? [chap. 17]  
A: *Nick's dad; Mr. Churchill was ill and had to stay in bed*
- Q: Who showed up at Nick's game? [chap. 18]  
A: *his dad, who helped him warm up*

## Timeline and Map Activities

-  Kansas City, KS (D6)

## Day 3

**The Children of Noisy Village** | Chapters 1–3

## Setting

Sweden.

## Overview

Follow Lisa, her two brothers, and the other three children of Noisy Village as they celebrate birthdays, holidays and school.

Narrated by Lisa, you get a picture of how the girls and boys play together, the activities they do, and what living on a farm in a small community was like.

## Vocabulary

**loom:** a machine to create fabric from woven threads. [chap. 2]

**rag carpets:** made from torn strips of cloth braided together and then stitched together in an oval or circle. [chap. 2]

## To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why is Noisy Village called that? [chap. 1]  
A: *because the 7 children make a lot of noise*
- Q: What are the advantages and disadvantages of sharing a room with older brothers? [chap. 2]  
A: *advantage: can tell stories with one another; disadvantage: told scary stories, played practical jokes, had no control over the lighting, the boys messed up Lisa's doll*
- Q: How did Lisa's family celebrate birthdays? How does your family? [chap. 3]  
A: *the birthday person stayed in bed until served hot chocolate and then opened presents. answers will vary*

## Day 4

### ***The Children of Noisy Village*** | Chapters 4–6

#### Vocabulary

**draggletail:** a slob. [chap. 4]

**Parish:** an area served by a local church. [chap. 5]

**Surly:** crabby. [chap. 5]

#### To Discuss After You Read

Q: How did the girls communicate with one another from their bedrooms? [chap. 4]

A: *they sent letters along a string and used flashlight codes*

Q: Describe how Olaf got his dog. [chap. 5]

A: *he spoke kindly to and cared for the mean, abused dog and eventually, his father bought the dog from his mean owner*

Q: Why do you think Lisa prefers a grandfather instead of a pet dog? [chap. 6]

A: *the grandfather she knows tells stories, provides treats and teaches how to use tools; a pet is more limited in its offerings ■*