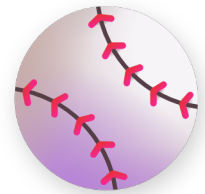




Read the sports story carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence. Look for the cause — what happened first — and the effect — what happened because of it. Trace the chain of events from start to finish.

Vladdy's Game-Winning Blast



"Come on, Vladdy, hit a big one!" yelled Maya from her seat in the stands. The Toronto Blue Jays were down by one run in the bottom of the ninth inning, with two outs. Vladimir Guerrero Jr. stepped up to the plate, the crowd holding its breath. The pitcher threw a fastball right over the plate. Vladdy swung with all his might.

CRACK! The ball soared high into the night sky, a towering shot deep into left field. It was a no-doubter! The crowd roared as the ball sailed over the fence, a majestic three-run home run! The Blue Jays had taken the lead, 5-3!



Down in the outfield seats, a young boy named Leo, wearing his Vladdy Jr. jersey, gasped as the ball came right towards him. With a lucky grab, he caught the historic home run ball! Cheers erupted around him, and a stadium camera zoomed in on his excited face.

Because of Vladdy's incredible home run, the Blue Jays won the game in dramatic fashion. The next day, sports news was filled with replays of the catch, and Leo was invited to meet Vladimir Guerrero Jr. himself. The team's spirit soared, and merchandise sales, especially for Vladdy's jerseys, went up significantly, creating a memorable moment for everyone.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Which of these BEST explains why the crowd roared loudly in the stadium? Circle the correct answer.

(A) The pitcher threw a fastball.

(B) Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a three-run home run. (C) Maya yelled for Vladdy.

(D) Leo caught the ball.

(2) Complete the sentence: Because Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit the towering home run,

_____.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What happened immediately after Vladdy hit the ball over the fence?

(4) Describe how Vladdy's home run led to the Blue Jays winning and then to Leo meeting his hero.



(5) What might have happened if Vladdy had NOT hit the home run? Explain.

(6) Which of these was an effect of Vladdy's home run and Leo's catch? Circle the correct answer.

- (A) The pitcher was traded to another team.
- (B) Team spirit soared and merchandise sales went up.
- (C) Maya decided to become a baseball player.
- (D) The game went into extra innings.

