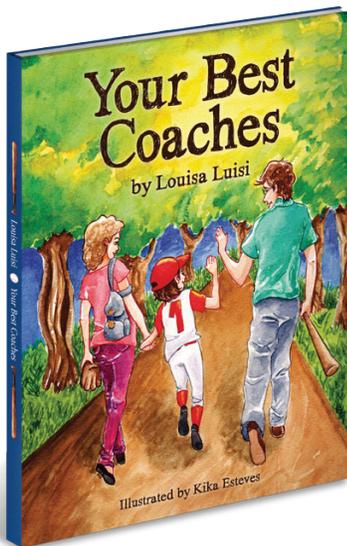


# Educator's Guide

Designed for All Grade Levels



This educator's guide enhances the experience of reading *Your Best Coaches* with your students. Please send comments, questions, and pictures of your students' work or your class reading the book to:

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**After reading *Your Best Coaches* with your class, use the following as a discussion guide. Please feel free to modify these questions to accommodate your students.**

### **Grades K-2**

1. Who are your best coaches? Draw a picture and label with letters or words.
2. Draw a picture of a time when you felt scared. How did you overcome that fear? Who helped you? Add this person (or people) to your picture. (Suggestion: Provide split paper for students to represent how they were scared on one side and how they overcame their fear on the other side.)
3. Draw a picture of a time when you did not feel like you were part of a group. Add a sentence about how this made you feel. Tell us about that time and how you overcame those feelings.
4. How are you a good coach to others in your life? Make a list of things you do for others to help them.

### **Discussion Points/Writing Prompts (Elementary)**

1. In the book, the young boy's best coaches are his mother and father. Who are your best coaches in life? Why do you consider them to be your best coaches?
2. What is the meaning of a team? Why is it important to work as team?
3. This boy is nervous as the baseball comes near. What are some of your biggest fears?
4. What does it mean to be thrown a curve?
5. What makes a good role model?
6. The young boy in the book does not have a name. What name would you give him and why?

### **Discussion Points/Writing Prompts (Secondary)**

1. Write about a time in your life when you were filled with heart pounding fear.
2. Who are your best coaches in life?
3. Write about a time in your life when you felt you were not a part of a team or group. Describe the situation and the emotions you felt. How did you handle it?
4. How can a person overcome a curve ball that is thrown? What are some healthy steps that one may take to appropriately handle curve balls in life?
5. Identify curve balls or fears that may be faced by other children.
6. Write about a time in your life when you were thrown a curve. What happened and how did you handle the situation?
7. In what ways are you a good coach to other people?
8. How can a baseball game be a metaphor for life?

**Note to Teachers:** Use the following activity to teach shapes and describing words (adjectives) to your students.  
Bulletin board suggestion: Collect your students' work and create a bulletin board entitled "Our Winning Team."

Draw yourself and your best coach or coaches in the center of the baseball diamond below. Fill in the bases with describing words (adjectives) to describe your best coach or coaches. Cut out your diamond and bases. Place the bases in their proper position on your baseball diamond.

