

The Remedial Herstory Project

INQUIRY-BASED LESSON PLAN

STAGING THE INQUIRY

For this inquiry, teachers should consider opening with an intriguing and open ended question, then provide some background on this topic generally in the form of a video, brief lecture, or presentation. Close the introduction by asking students what questions they have, guide them in discussion to the question for the inquiry, highlighted at the top of the next page.

ACTIVITY TASKS

- Pose a broad open ended question. Provide background information.
- Students respond to questions in this packet independently or with a partner.
- Consider doing one of the following to extend the exercise:
 - Facilitate student discussion of the compelling question.
 - Facilitate a 4-corner debate.
 - Facilitate a structured academic controversy.
 - Students assume the characters involved and discuss the compelling question in character.
- Students craft an argument.

C3 FRAMEWORK

D1.1.9-12. Explain how a question reflects an enduring issue in the field.

D1.2.9-12. Explain points of agreement and disagreement experts have about interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question.

D2.His.4.9-12. Analyze complex and interacting factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras.

D2.His.5.9-12. Analyze how historical contexts shaped and continue to shape people's perspectives.

D2.His.10.9-12. Detect possible limitations in various kinds of historical evidence and differing secondary interpretations.

D2.His.11.9-12. Critique the usefulness of historical sources for a specific historical inquiry based on their maker, date, place of origin, intended audience, and purpose.

D2.His.12.9-12. Use questions generated about multiple historical sources to pursue further inquiry and investigate additional sources.

D2.His.14.9-12. Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of events in the past.

D2.His.16.9-12. Integrate evidence from multiple relevant historical sources and interpretations into a reasoned argument about the past.

Inquiry Activity: Why did Katie Casey want to go to a ball game?

Read the documents below. After each document set, consider, why do Americans celebrate Thanksgiving?

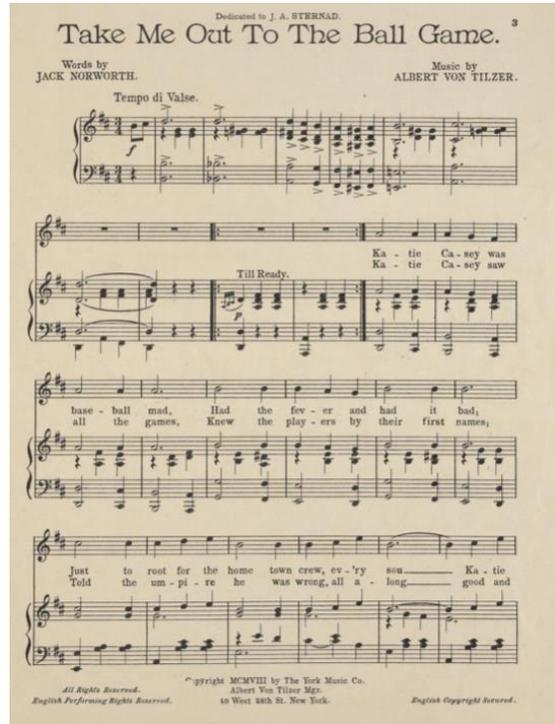
Document A: Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Katie Casey was baseball mad,
Had the fever and had it bad.
Just to root for the home town crew,
Ev'ry sou Katie blew.
On a Saturday her young beau
Called to see if she'd like to go
To see a show, but Miss Kate said "No,
I'll tell you what you can do:

Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd;
Just buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don't care if I never get back.
Let me root, root, root for the home team,
If they don't win, it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game.

Katie Casey saw all the games,
Knew the players by their first names.
Told the umpire he was wrong,
All along,
Good and strong.
When the score was just two to two,
Katie Casey knew what to do,
Just to cheer up the boys she knew,
She made the gang sing this song:

Take me out to the ball game....



Document B: Baseball's tumultuous relationship with the female fan

Major League Baseball began advertising to women in the early 1880s with Ladies' Day promotions, wherein women accompanied by a man received discounted or free tickets to a designated Ladies' Day game. The practice rapidly spread to other teams when the FLOTUS, Frances Cleveland, endorsed baseball in 1888 after attending a Yale-Princeton game. Three years later, the Washington Sunday Herald asserted, "It is now fashionable for ladies to make up a party and go without the usual male escort." [1]

During the late 1800s, the number of women in the workforce tripled, but they were relegated to low-paying domestic positions that gave them a sense of freedom without granting them agency. Women slowly clawed their way to political recognition, becoming property owners and gaining the vote in several states. They argued their

inclusion in the male-dominated world of baseball went great lengths to prove their equality, and feminist ideas were spread in ballparks, where large groups of women could now gather without drawing suspicion...

The attacks on female baseball fans increased in number and veracity. Men utilized numerous publications to craft an image of female fans as both dangerous and insincere; not only did they obtain nothing from their visits to the park, they ruined the experience for the serious, male fans in attendance. In 1909, the National League banned Ladies' Day, asserting that women no longer required a special day to attend games as they had become full-fledged fans. In actuality, the owners likely feared losing male fans who had voiced their displeasure with the days. Though the less-established American League continued to profit from and therefore hold Ladies' Days, this ban drove away scores of female fans who no longer felt welcome at ballparks. [2]

The ban did little to deter women from fighting for equal rights in all other areas of society, however, as they worked to foster labor reform, create the National Woman's Party, and prove their indispensability during WWI. Though they were forced out of many jobs assumed during the war, their efforts piqued the interest of Chicago Cubs President Bill Veeck, who saw them as an untapped market. In defiance of the 1909 ban, Veeck established the first Ladies' Day of the 1919 season on June 6th. He assumed that drawing in women would enable entire families to attend game, creating a continuous stream of fans for decades to come. The promotions proved successful, as Chicago women on Ladies' Day outdraw a number of other teams' total season attendance. [3]

The tale from here on out is much the same as baseball's first foray into Ladies' Day: other teams eventually clambered aboard the bandwagon, women faced male backlash, and Ladies' Day was eventually cancelled. But this time, the promotion lasted decades as a result of the need for female fans to maintain the sport during the Great Depression and WWII.

Craig, Mary. "Baseball's tumultuous relationship with the female fan: Although it was viewed as a male activity, women have followed professional baseball since its inception. The owners, however, have struggled to embrace women as legitimate fans." Last modified June 23, 2017. <https://www.beyondtheboxscore.com/2017/6/23/15851676/mlb-promotions-advertising-sexism-female-fans-history>.

Document C: The Feminist History of 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game'

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game," written in 1908 by lyricist Jack Norworth and composer Albert von Tilzer, is inextricably linked to America's national pastime. But while most Americans can sing along as baseball fans "root, root, root for the home team," few know the song's feminist history... the song was written as Jack Norworth's ode to his girlfriend, the progressive and outspoken Trixie Friganza, a famous vaudeville actress and suffragist.

Friganza was a vaudeville star by the age of 19, and her life was defined by her impact both on and off the stage... she was an influential and prominent suffragist who advocated for women's social and political equality. The early 1900s were a critical time in the fight for the vote... Friganza, an unflinching supporter in the fight for the ballot, was a vital presence in a movement that needed to draw young, dynamic women into the cause. She attended rallies in support of women's right to vote, gave speeches to

gathering crowds, and donated generously to suffrage organizations. “I do not believe any man – at least no man I know – is better fitted to form a political opinion than I am,” Friganza declared at a suffrage rally in New York City in 1908.

“Trixie was one of the major suffragists,” says Susan Clermont, senior music specialist at the Library of Congress. “She was one of those women with her banner and her hat and her white dress, and she was a real force to be reckoned with for women’s rights.” In 1907, Friganza’s two worlds – celebrity and activism – would collide when she began a romantic relationship with Jack Norworth.

While most Americans today recognize the chorus of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” it is the two additional, essentially unknown verses that reveal the song as a feminist anthem... Featuring a woman named Katie Casey who was “baseball mad,” who “saw all the games” and who “knew the players by their first names,” “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” tells the story of a woman operating and existing in what is traditionally a man’s space – the baseball stadium. Katie Casey was knowledgeable about the sport, she was argumentative with the umpires, and she was standing, not sitting, in the front row. She was the “New Woman” of the early 20th Century: empowered, engaged, and living in the world, uninhibited and full of passion. She was, historians now believe, Trixie Friganza.

“[Norworth] was with [Friganza] at the time he wrote this song,” says Clermont. “This is a very progressive woman he’s dating, and this is a very progressive Katie Casey. And [Friganza] very likely was the influence for ‘Take Me Out to the Ball Game.’”

As further evidence that the fictional Katie Casey was based on Friganza, historians from Major League Baseball and the Library of Congress point to the covers of two original editions of the sheet music, which feature Friganza. Boziwick’s discovery of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game’s” feminist history, coming nearly 100 years after the song’s publication, shows how women’s stories are so often forgotten, overlooked and untold, and reveals the power of one historian’s curiosity to investigate.

And while “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” has endured as one of the most popular songs in America over the century... Friganza and Norworth’s romance ended long before the song became a regular feature in baseball stadiums across the U.S.

Laymon, Anna. “The Feminist History of ‘Take Me Out to the Ball Game’” *Smithsonian Magazine*. Last modified July 14, 2020.
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/feminist-history-take-me-out-ball-game-180973307/>.



Question for Analysis: Why did Katie Casey want to go to the ballgame?