

Close Reading Note-Catcher: “Jim Abbott”

(Example, for Teacher Reference)

Name of athlete: <i>Jim Abbott</i>	What change did he/she represent? <i>People accepting those with disabilities in baseball.</i>
Achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Named the best amateur athlete and the top amateur baseball player in the nation in 1987</i>• <i>First U.S. pitcher to beat the Cuban national team in Cuba in 25 years</i>• <i>Gold medal as a member of the 1988 U.S. Olympic baseball team</i>• <i>Most Courageous Athlete for 1986 by the Philadelphia Sportswriters Association</i>• <i>Sullivan Award</i>• <i>Beat future Major League stars Jack McDowell, Robin Ventura, and Ken Griffey Jr. for Golden Spikes Award (given to top amateur baseball player)</i>• <i>First baseball player to be named Big Ten Conference Player of the Year</i>• <i>Voted Angels Rookie of the Year in 1989</i>• <i>Most Inspirational Player by the Anaheim chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America</i>	

Factors contributing to success as a leader of social change	Evidence from the text
Personal qualities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Perseverance and persistence</i> • <i>Courage</i> • <i>Special skills (amazing baseball player)</i> • <i>Articulate</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“He spent hours throwing a rubber ball against a brick wall and catching it on the rebound.”</i> • <i>“Left-handed pitcher Jim Abbott is probably the most celebrated athlete with a major disability of his era.”</i> • <i>“In fact, at every step, from Little League on, he kept hearing that his playing days would probably end at that level. But at each new level, Jim proved his doubters wrong.”</i> • <i>“As a freshman he was named Most Courageous Athlete for 1986 by the Philadelphia Sportswriters Association after posting a record of six wins against two losses.”</i> • <i>“Handsome and articulate, he was interviewed countless times by the major networks and publications.”</i>
Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>From family (parents)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Jim’s parents always encouraged him to try things and helped him acquire confidence. ‘We decided that if Jim wanted to [play sports] then to let him try,’ said Mike Abbott in a 1998 USA Today interview. ‘I helped out with some things. But in the end it was all Jim. It had to be.’”</i> • <i>“His father helped him develop the technique for handling his glove-hand switch, which allowed Jim him to throw and catch the ball with the same hand.”</i>

Factors contributing to success as a leader of social change	Evidence from the text
<p>Ways to communicate the vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The media</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>“After his first college game, the modest young hurler was mortified and suffered an unmerciful razzing from his teammates when the press held the team bus up for an hour to interview him.”</i>• <i>“It’s true Abbott was a media sensation.”</i>• <i>“At the postgame press conference, Abbott patiently discussed his pitching/fielding motion. ‘I’ve been doing this since I was 5 years old. Now it’s as natural as tying my shoes,’ he said to reporters, leaving them to contemplate the complexity of tying one’s shoes with one hand.”</i>• <i>“Abbott’s deft handling of the constant public pressure may have been his most impressive accomplishment, however. Handsome and articulate, he was interviewed countless times by the major networks and publications.”</i>