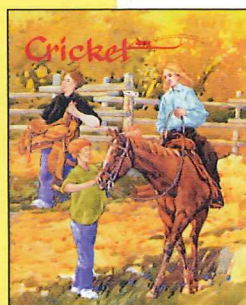


## Cause and Effect

- A **cause** is why something happens. An **effect** is what happens.
- When you read, sometimes clue words such as *because* and *since* signal a cause and effect relationship. Sometimes there are no clue words.
- Sometimes the author does not tell a cause, and you need to think about why something happened.
- A cause may have more than one effect, and an effect may have more than one cause.

Read “Baseball and Brothers” from “Yankee Doodle Shortstop” by Helen J. Hinterberg from *Cricket*.



### Write About It

1. Meg has mixed feelings about playing baseball. What causes these feelings?
2. What causes Meg’s mother to want her to sing to Charles? What effect does the song have on him?

## Baseball and Brothers

by Helen J. Hinterberg

“I hate baseball.”

“You love baseball.”

Meg sighed. “I love it and I hate it, I guess.”

Her mother was spooning strained peas into Meg’s baby brother, Charles. “Don’t worry, honey. It’ll work out. You made the team.”

Meg traced a pattern on the tablecloth with her finger. “What’s the point anyway? Girls can’t play in the major leagues. Might as well give it up now before I waste any more time.”

Mrs. O’Malley sat down at the table and met Meg’s unhappy gaze. “I know there’s no professional baseball for women, honey. I knew it when I was your age. I played anyway. I loved it.”

Meg smiled for the first time that day. “You still play.”

“You bet I do. I’m the best player in the coed, over-35 league. I carry my team. And I still love it. Now, do me a favor and sing ‘Yankee Doodle’ to your brother. It’ll get your mind off your problems and it’ll get more peas into Charles.”

Charles was thirteen months old. “Yankee Doodle Dandy” was his favorite song. It always cheered him up. Meg had sung it to him so many times that singing it was as easy as breathing. Launching into it now put a wet grin on Charles’s face, but it didn’t keep Meg from thinking about baseball.

If she didn’t love it so much, she would walk away from it without a backward glance. But she loved every single thing about it, from the uniforms that never fit quite right, to the mouthful of dust she inhaled every time she slid into a base; from the painful sting in her hand when a line drive slammed into her glove, to the fierce jolt that leaped up her arm when she hit a ball hard.



**LOOK**  
AHEAD TO

### Meeting Mr. Henry

In the next story, Jason learns something new about baseball. As you read, pay attention to what happens in the story and why it happens.

## Cause and Effect

- A **cause** is why something happens. An **effect** is what happens.
- A cause may have more than one effect. An effect may have more than one cause.
- Sometimes a clue word such as *because* or *since* signals a cause-effect relationship. Sometimes there is no clue word, and you need to think about why something happened.

Cause → Effect

**Directions:** Reread “Baseball and Brothers.” Then complete the table. Provide each missing cause or effect.

Cause (Why did it happen?)	Effect (What happened?)
1.	Meg says she hates baseball and thinks about giving it up.
2.	Mrs. O’Malley still plays baseball.
Mrs. O’Malley wants Meg to stop thinking about her problems, and she wants Charles to eat more peas.	3.
4.	Singing “Yankee Doodle” is very easy for Meg.
5.	Meg finds it difficult to walk away from baseball



**Notes for Home:** Your child read a story and identified causes and effects. **Home Activity:** Help your child relate causes and effects by starting a sentence, such as *You eat breakfast because \_\_\_\_\_*. Ask your child to complete the sentence by giving a cause, or reason.

## Cause and Effect

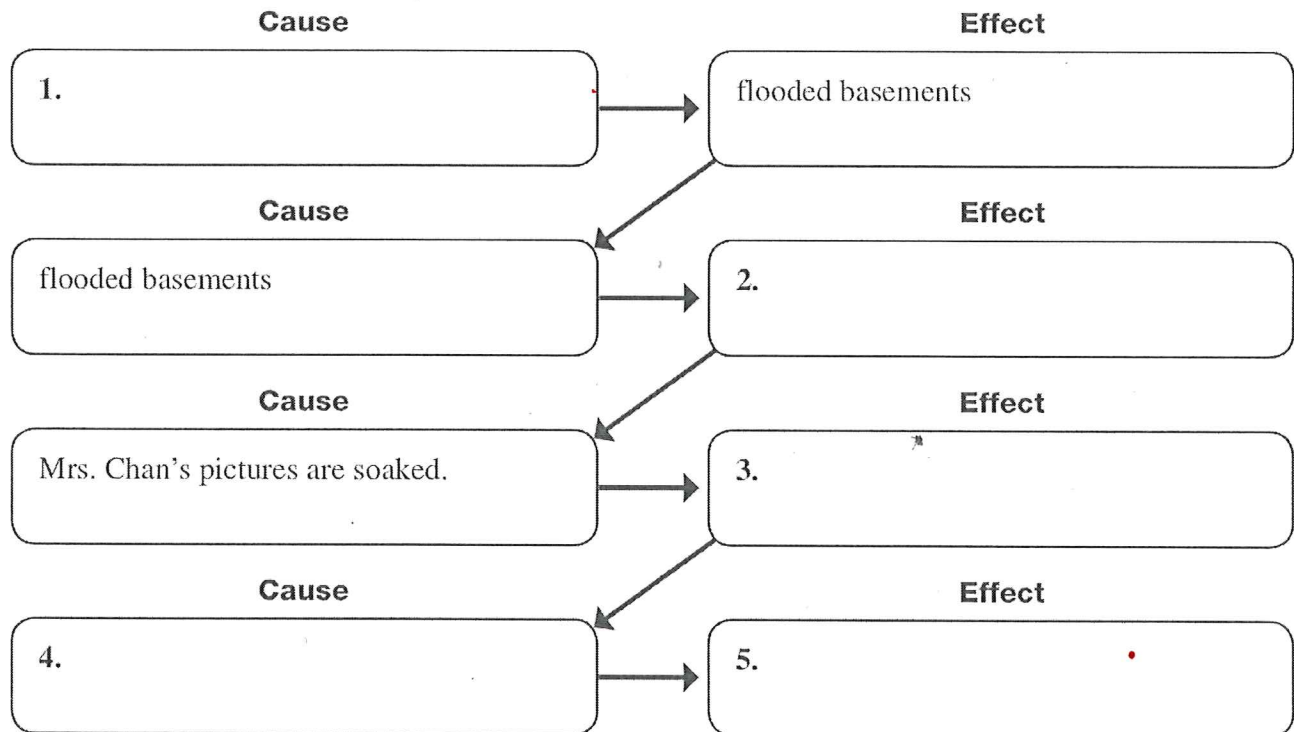
- A **cause** is what makes something happen. An **effect** is what happens as a result of the cause.
- If there are no clue words, ask yourself, "What made this event happen? What happened as a result of this event?"
- An effect may become the cause of another effect.

**Directions** Read the following passage and complete the diagram below.

**B**y the third day of non-stop rain, no one on our street could keep the water out of their homes. The homes that had basements were hit hardest. Basements were flooded in spite of efforts to pump the water out. Toys, washing machines, and furniture in basements were soaked through completely.

Our neighbor, Mrs. Chan, was so

sad because all her photographs of her grandchildren had been in her basement. Her granddaughter May was my best friend, and I had May's school picture in my wallet. I wrapped it in a plastic bag, put on my raincoat, and ran to Mrs. Chan's house. Just as I handed Mrs. Chan May's picture, a ray of sun peeked out from behind a cloud.



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**Home Activity** Your child identified causes and effects in a short passage. While working around the house, have your child explain to you the effects of one of the chores. Then ask your child to figure out if the effect becomes the cause of another effect.