

THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Video: Ready For Take Off *Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure* *(timeline)*

Luis was spending the summer with his grandparents. He had taken a special interest in looking through their childhood belongings stored in the attic. One day, as he was going through his grandfather's things, he came across a tin full of old baseball cards. As he rummaged through them, he found the cards of Joe DiMaggio, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, and even Babe Ruth! On the very bottom of the tin was a stamp with a tiny photo of Lou Gehrig. Luis new this meant he had to be a star, too, if there were a stamp with his picture on it. He was determined to find out more information on this baseball star.

Luis knew his grandfather was a baseball fanatic, so he went to the shelves of books in his grandfather's office and found a book on baseball players before 1950. As he flipped to the pages dedicated to Lou Gehrig, he realized he'd found a terrific example of timeline Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read **Lou Gehrig**. Create your own *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer with your family or friends.

Then compare your thinking with [Luis's Think Aloud and Graphic Organizer](#).



Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about Lou Gehrig. Think about what you've learned about sequencing. Share your thoughts with your family and friends.

While You Read:

Notice signal words that can help you determine the order of the events. You may want to highlight signal words in blue and the events in green and orange (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme!)

After You Read:

- Think about how you would make a timeline of the life of "Lou Gehrig."
- Discuss your ideas with your family or friends. Together, create a collaborative Think Aloud about how you used Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure to determine the timeline. Share your *thinking* with each other.



Lou Gehrig

One of the greatest baseball players in history was born in the Yorkville section of New York City on June 19, 1903. Signing with the New York Yankees in 1923, Gehrig went on to break an impressive list of baseball records. The son of German immigrants, Gehrig was nicknamed the "Iron Horse" for his determination and hard work.

Over the next fourteen years, Gehrig would slug and field his way successfully through 2,130 consecutive games with the Yankees.

In 1938, Gehrig developed devastating physical symptoms. Quickly losing strength, he struggled to bat and field the ball. Even simple acts, like changing in and out of his uniform became a challenge. On May 2, 1939, Lou Gehrig took himself out of the lineup of the New York Yankees. Doctors then diagnosed him with a fatal disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS. On July 4, 1939 Gehrig broke the news to a sell out crowd of heartbroken fans at Yankee Stadium. Though he said the disease was a "bad break," he still considered himself to be the "luckiest man on the face of the Earth". Less than two years later, on June 2, 1941, Lou Gehrig died peacefully at his home in the Bronx.

June 15, 1903: Lou Gehrig is born

1923: Gehrig debuts with the New York Yankees

1927: Gehrig is selected as the American League's Most Valuable Player

1934: Gehrig wins the Triple Crown

1936: Gehrig is again selected as the American League's Most Valuable Player

1938: Gehrig develops ALS

1939: Gehrig retires from the New York Yankees and gives his farewell speech

1939: Gehrig is inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

June 2, 1941: Gehrig dies



Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the timeline sequence for Lou Gehrig, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the author's main points.



Compare your Think Aloud with Luis's Think Aloud:

Luis's Think Aloud: From the title I know that I am going to be reading about Lou Gehrig. I know when a text is written about a person it is called a biography. This text is rather short, so I am thinking that it will not include every moment of his life. Since a biography is about a person's life-it is often written using sequence text structure to help the reader understand the order of events in the person's life.

As I read the first sentence, I learn he was born on June 19, 1903 in New York City. His birth signals the first event in his life and I think I will create a timeline to help organize the upcoming events. After his birth, the next event the author writes about is his signing with the Yankees in 1923. As I read, I think about the fact that the author just talks about the events of Gehrig's career. As I read, I think about the fact that 20 years passed between his birth and the next event, which was his signing with the Yankees, and I notice that no other events were listed.

I'm thinking the next event that seems to have an impact on Lou Gehrig's career was in 1938, when he developed a physical condition that caused him to take himself out of the line up in 1939. I know this because I know he loved the game of baseball so this had to be an important event in his career. Taking himself out of the game in May of 1939 and telling his fans of his illness in August of that year were two more important events in his career. I know this because it says that his fans were brokenhearted when he told them the news. I know he loved the game of baseball so this had to be an important event in his career. June 2, 1941 he passed away! The timeline at the end is helpful. It gives more specific dates about his career. I will combine the dates in the text with the timeline for my graphic organizer, which helps me get a clearer picture of important events in Lou Gehrig's life. He won most valuable player twice, WOW! Now I understand why his face is on a postage stamp. He was a strong, determined, and a selfless player.



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Compare your Graphic Organizer with Luis's Graphic Organizer:

Luis's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author used dates, I am going to create a timeline graphic organizer to record the events in sequence."

Questions to Think About:

- How do *signal words* help Luis make sense of the text?
- How does the *Timeline Graphic Organizer* help Luis determine the sequence of the events?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

