Introducing the Sultan of Swat

Category: Writing Assignment
Series: The MLB Fan's Guide (*12 Reasons to Love the New York Yankees*)

Supplies
12 Reasons to Love the New York Yankees, paper, pencils, additional resources

Prep
Read through 12 Reason to Love the New York Yankees, making note of the sections that mention Babe Ruth (2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 12). Read section 2,"'The Bambino' Changes the Yankees," to the students.

Directions
Ask students if they have heard of Babe Ruth. Explain that he was a key figure in the history of baseball and the New York Yankees. Students will examine the way that the book presents his story. Ask students to read through the book, looking for places where Babe Ruth is mentioned. Then have them write down the answers to the following questions:

- What were the New York Yankees like before Ruth played for them? What did Ruth do that changed this?
- Section 2 says, "Ruth was a colorful personality" (p.7). Does the author give any evidence to support this statement? If so, what is it?
- Section 2 says, "Ruth became baseball's biggest star" (p. 6). Does the author give any evidence to support this statement? If so, what is it?
- What evidence later in the book also supports this statement that Ruth was baseball's biggest star? Make sure to include 2 specific facts in your answer, including the section title and page number where you found them.
- Section 6 mentions a decision that was made because of how Ruth played. What was this decision? What does it tell you about Ruth?
- Section 8 mentions a record that Babe Ruth set. What information does this section include that is not in Section 2? How does this change how you understand the record?

Evaluation
Were the students able to find the answers to the questions? Did they mention specific pieces of evidence in their answers? Give students up to three points for each question. RI 6.3, 6.8

Purpose
To help students analyze how a text's author introduces and elaborates on an important individual, as well as to evaluate claims made by a text, noting whether they are supported by reasons and evidence.