

Jim Abbott was born with what many people would call a handicap. His right forearm ended in a stub, and he had no right hand. But Jim's parents raised him to believe that not having a right hand didn't matter. They taught him that he could still become whatever he wanted to be—even a professional athlete!

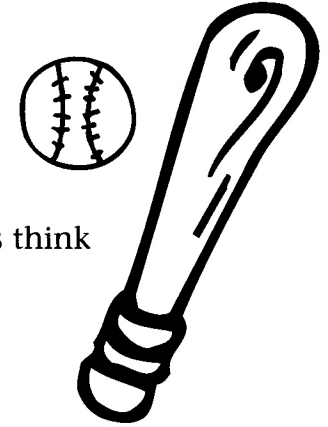
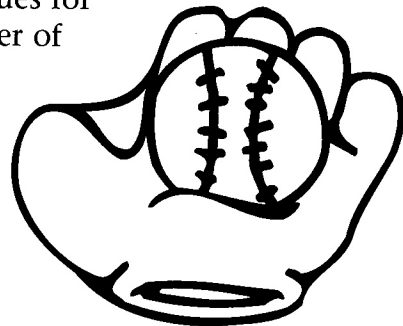
When Jim was five years old, his parents got him a prosthetic hand with metal hooks. With this hand, Jim was able to do a few more things, like tie his shoes. But he felt self-conscious with the artificial hand, so he stopped wearing it.

Jim and his friends loved sports. Jim's parents encouraged him to play soccer, since not having a hand wouldn't matter very much with running and kicking. But Jim's favorite sport was baseball.

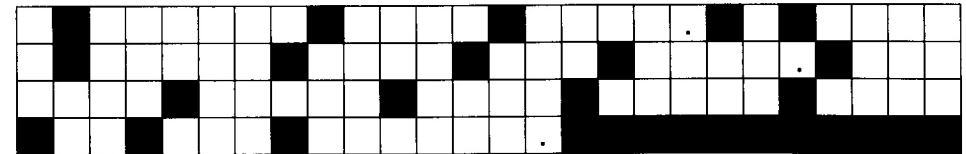
Jim and his father worked out a way for Jim to play catch. Jim held his glove on the end of his right forearm when he threw the ball. Then he quickly slipped the glove onto his left hand so he could catch the ball. He spent hundreds of hours playing catch with his father and other boys or throwing a rubber ball against a brick wall and catching it as it bounced back. By the time he was eleven he could pitch harder and field better than most of the other boys his age. He played pitcher in his first Little League game and pitched a no-hitter.

In high school, Jim played basketball and football, but his favorite sport was still baseball. Besides being an outstanding pitcher, he was also an excellent batter. He had the most home runs and the highest batting average on his team. After a great career at the University of Michigan and playing on the gold medal team in the Olympics, Jim was drafted by the California Angels. Jim pitched in the major leagues for more than ten years and had a number of excellent seasons.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment has been inspiring thousands of people to look beyond what others consider handicaps and strive to achieve their dreams.



- Based on this story, which of these descriptions are true of Jim Abbott?
  - A. \_\_\_ shy
  - B. \_\_\_ determined
  - C. \_\_\_ athletic
  - D. \_\_\_ inspiring
- Which of these sports did Jim's parents think Jim should play?
  - A. \_\_\_ baseball
  - B. \_\_\_ soccer
  - C. \_\_\_ football
  - D. \_\_\_ basketball
- Based on this story, why did Jim Abbott become a successful professional athlete?
  - A. \_\_\_ He worked hard at sports.
  - B. \_\_\_ He had a handicap.
  - C. \_\_\_ His parents thought he couldn't make it.
  - D. \_\_\_ He got an artificial hand.
- Fallen Phrase. Choose from the letters below the squares to make the words that will complete this quotation by Jim Abbott.



C T D G Y  
 I EOWAE MYSEHFH O D TLP  
 ONWYRLSDPLERYATACDUMI SEOT  
 I MLOUKHINVATL THERGALE FTHE