Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man
By David A. Adler
Genre: Biography

Focus Skill: Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots
Focus Strategy: Summarize

Directions: While reading the story “Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man” by David A. Adler, answer the questions with information from the text.

1.) Lou Gehrig set an amazing record by ________.

Those were the first two games in what would become an amazing record:
For the next fourteen years Lou Gehrig played in 2,130 consecutive Yankee games. The boy who never missed a day of grade school became a man who never missed a game.
(p. 108)

2.) Lou’s mother is furious when he quits college to play baseball with the Yankees because she thinks Lou ________.

Christina Gehrig had great hopes for her son Lou. She dreamed that he would attend college and become an accountant or an engineer. She insisted that he study hard. Lou’s mother thought that games and sports were a waste of time.
(p. 107)

3.) Why did Lou Gehrig get the nickname Iron Horse?

Lou Gehrig played despite stomachaches, fevers, a sore arm, back pains, and broken fingers. Lou’s constant play earned him the nickname Iron Horse.
(p. 108)
4.) In 1927 and 1936, baseball writers selected Lou Gehrig as the ________.

In 1927 Lou’s teammate Babe Ruth hit sixty home runs, the most hit up to that time in one season. But it was Lou Gehrig who was selected that year by the baseball writers as the American League’s Most Valuable Player. He was selected again as the league’s MVP in 1936.

(pg. 110)

5.) In 1938, Lou’s first problems occurred when he ________.

Then, during the 1938 baseball season – and for no apparent reason – Lou Gehrig stopped hitting. One newspaper reported that he was swinging as hard as he could, but when he hit the ball it didn’t go anywhere.

(pg. 110)

6.) Lou said, “I’m benching myself…for the good of the team.” What did Lou mean?

Some people said Yankee manager Joe McCarthy should take Lou out of the lineup. But McCarthy refused. But Lou wasn’t selfish. On May 2, 1939, he told Joe McCarthy, “I’m benching myself…for the good of the team.”

(pg. 111)
7.) According to Lou Gehrig, why did he quit baseball?

When reporters asked why he took himself out, Lou didn’t say he felt weak or how hard it was for him to run. Lou made no excuses. He just said that he couldn’t hit and he couldn’t field.

(pg. 111)

8.) When Lou couldn’t play, he still participated by ______.

Lou loved going to the games, being in the clubhouse, and sitting with his teammates. Before each game Lou brought the Yankee lineup card to the umpire at home plate.

(pg. 112)

9.) When Lou Gehrig was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, the Yankees _____.

In December 1930 Lou Gehrig was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. And the Yankees retired his uniform. No one else on the team would ever wear the number four. It was the first time a major-league team did that to honor one of its players.

(pg. 114)
10.) Why did the Yankee team and the Yankee fans make July 4, 1939, Lou Gehrig Appreciation Day?

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11.) Why did Lou Gehrig believe that he was “the luckiest man on the face of the earth?”

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