

Appendix 5.2. Overview of the Small-Group Reading Roles

Field Reporter: Your role is to point out panels that your group should focus on. These panels should be memorable in some way: e.g., interesting, puzzling, funny, or important. Your notes should include specific dialogue as well as images in panels you believe are important.

Sample Questions

- What did you think when you read your assigned section?
- What did the text or images make you think?
- How might others (of different backgrounds, perhaps) think about these panels/sections?
- What *one* question would you ask the writer or illustrator?
- What are the important ideas or moments in this text/section?

Commentator: Your job is to connect what you are reading with the world/culture outside of school. You can connect the graphic novel to events in the news or the world of sports. This may require some research.

Sample Questions

- What ideas come up in the story that are connected to the news and sports of today?
- To what other athletes or news figures could you compare the characters?
- What important connections come to mind?
- What is the story implying about baseball or sports, or about sports culture as a whole?

Color Analyst: Your role demands that you identify the use of images in the story and requires you to focus on iconography, closure, space, and time in the panels you have read.

Sample Questions:

- How did the images help tell the story?
- What images needed context to make sense?
- Which pictures required prior knowledge of baseball to make sense?
- How was time or space illustrated through the panels?

Play-by-Play Announcer: In this role, you write a brief summary of the assigned reading. Be prepared to discuss the story chronologically, as though announcing it.

Sample Questions:

- What details, characters, or events are most important to the telling of the story?
- What made them so important?

- What appears to be the effects of the action on the main characters?
- What changes in plot or character did you notice while reading this section?
- What might be a good newspaper article feature for this section of the story?