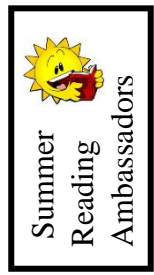
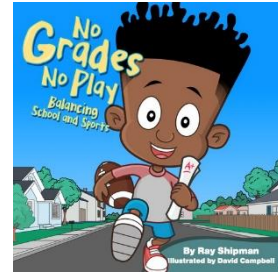




## No Grades, No Play by Ray Shipman

Perseverance, Balance



Jason has dreams of making it all the way to the BIG LEAGUES as a professional football player. Throughout the book, he learns valuable lessons on how to balance school and sports and the importance of education.

### Before Reading:

- From the book cover, what inferences can you make about the main character?

### After Reading:

- What are Jason's traits that make him a great football player?
- What grades did Jason get on the first report card at the beginning of the book? Why did he get these grades? What happened to him after the first report card?
- What grades did Jason get on his second report card? Why did he get those grades? What happened to him after the second report card?
- How did Jason's attitude about school and football change throughout the book?

### Extension Ideas:

- **Connect with the Author:** The author of the book, Ray Shipman, was a Pro NFL Football player! Show children the picture of Ray at the back of the book. Why do you think Ray wrote this book? How do you think he was like Jason as a child?
- **Play Ball!** Take children outside and have them practice throwing, catching, and running with real or soft footballs. Pair students together to catch from close up and take steps back to far away. Place cones in a row and have students practice running drills around the cones. What other games can you play with balls? Bring a variety of different types of balls outside and have children explore.
- **What Are Your Talents?** Jason was a talented football player and became a talented student by the end of the book. He had to practice to be great at both. Ask the children to share about their talents (sports, music, arts, school, etc.) and how they practice at each to be the best they can be. Organize an informal talent show where children can show off their talents to the group. NOTE: If a child feels like he/she does not have a talent, help to explore interests and make connections.
- **Cause and Effect:** What examples of cause and effect did we see in the book? Encourage children to create their own cause and effect scenarios and act out.
- **Balance:** How is the word *balance* used and modeled in the book? How do children balance their lives?