

The Zone He Called Twice

Eight activities

Activity 1: The moment has a brother in it

The card says, "you cannot be fair in the moment. The moment has a brother in it. You can only be fair in advance." In your own words, why does deciding in the moment fail even for an honest person? What does deciding in advance actually change? Two or three sentences.

Activity 2: The card's contents

List what Azriel writes on the card before the game, and explain why each item has to be decided BEFORE the first pitch rather than during the game. Short answers.

Activity 3: Order the repair

Put these in the story's order, and say why the order matters: (a) the mirror pitch and the resisted makeup call; (b) the card and the announcement to both coaches; (c) the generous corner against his brother's team; (d) the brother conversation on the walk home; (e) the bang-bang play the other direction. One sentence on why the order matters.

Activity 4: The zone math - a made-up set of numbers

The numbers in this activity are made up for practice. An umpire calls about 90 pitches a game. A generous outside corner turns about 6 borderline pitches per game into strikes. (a) Over a 10-game season, how many borderline calls does the announced zone settle in advance? (b) Suppose a makeup-call umpire evens out every hard call, changing about 4 calls a game to keep the peace. How many calls per season become negotiations instead of applications of the zone - and what does the story say each one teaches both dugouts? Show your steps.

Activity 5: "Two wrong calls don't balance. They compound."

What does the coordinator mean by "compound, like interest"? Trace what the first team and the second team each learn from one makeup call, and why every later pitch becomes a negotiation. Two or three sentences.

Activity 6: Draw the card

Draw Azriel's index card as Chapters 2 and 8 give it: the zone, the two lines at the bottom, and the pre-game announcement it backs up. Only what the story tells you. Caption it with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Refoel's game - a fictional case

A boy named Refoel is picked to settle disputes in his younger cousins' backyard games all summer, including games his own little brother plays in. Write the card he makes before the summer, the sentence he says to his brother after a hard ruling, and the makeup-ruling temptation he refuses. One sentence each, with names.

Activity 8: Word grid

Find the eight words in the grid. They all go left to right, one per row.

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S T R I K E W F G H
U M P I R E F G H U
Z O N E W F G H U P
C O R N E R H U P M
I N N I N G U P M N
S I G N A L P M N O
L I N E U P M N O R
F A I R P M N O R S
G H U P M N O R S T
H U P M N O R S T D

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The eight words: STRIKE, UMPIRE, ZONE, CORNER, INNING, SIGNAL, LINEUP, FAIR. Which word names what the card defines in advance, and which word names the only kind an umpire has - the predictable kind?