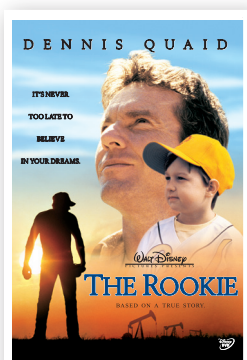




## THE ROOKIE



### Synopsis

Based on a true story, *The Rookie* is a story of second chances. Morris, who was forced to give up a promising baseball career because of injury, has resigned himself to a life of teaching and passing his dream on to a new generation. But a wager with the members of the high school team he now coaches forces him to consider the unthinkable: to become a major league rookie at the age of 35.

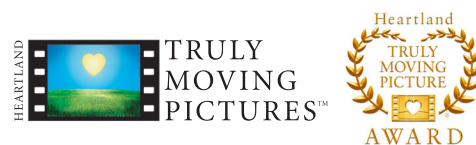
### Discussion Questions

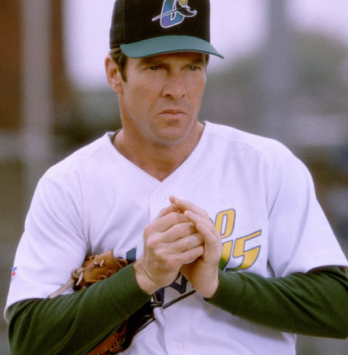
- Jimmy Morris was a well-loved coach and teacher who really pushed his students. Have you ever had a teacher or coach that made you want to do really well? Who was that person? Why did you want to work so hard for him or her?
- Coach Morris was not very eager to try out for the major leagues despite his fast arm. What were the reasons for his nervousness? Have you ever resisted doing something because you were afraid? What helps you calm down when you are anxious or nervous?
- Baseball was always Jimmy's dream, even when he was a kid. He always wanted to play, and he practiced all the time. What is your dream? Do you think this is something you can accomplish in your life?
- Hunter was a huge fan of his dad, especially when he would watch him throw. Is there something that your parent, older sibling, aunt/uncle or grandparent does that makes you really proud of him or her?



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## THE ROOKIE

### Activities

- Coach Morris tried to deny that he was still interested in playing baseball until he was pushed by his students. Interview an adult about his or her life. Find out what he or she wanted to become when they grew up, and if they followed through with those dreams. Do they still enjoy activities they enjoyed when they were a child?
- Create a “dream time capsule.” Take a paper bag and decorate it on the outside with pictures and drawings. Inside the bag put in a piece of paper for each dream you have for yourself (examples: I want to be a firefighter, I want to pet a crocodile, etc.). Make sure you write it out as legibly and completely as possible. Draw a picture to accompany it as well, if you’d like. Reopen your “dream time capsule” in 5 years to see how you have changed! Perhaps you can make a new one then, or continue building upon the original one.



### Get involved

- Jimmy had to try out for the major leagues because of a deal he made with his baseball team. Both the team and Jimmy ended up accomplishing their goals because of it. Make a deal with your parent, grandparent, sibling or friend that will help the both of you accomplish something.
- The Owls had a hard time getting a green baseball diamond where they could play. There are many sports teams out there who want to play but don’t have the proper equipment. Plan an equipment drive for a team in your community that needs help.



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