

Baseball

Location	Author	Title
J BAU	Bauer, Joan	Soar
Moving to Hillcrest, Ohio, when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, twelve-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, has sixty days to find a baseball team to coach.		
J BIS	Bishop, Jenn	The Distance to Home
Baseball player and superfan Quinnen must struggle to deal with her older sister's death in a story that unfolds between two summers.		
J CHR	Christopher, Matt	Baseball Turnaround
Sandy is drawn unknowingly into a shoplifting incident, but when his community service involves his beloved baseball, he meets people who help him finally put the past behind him.		
J CHR	Christopher, Matt	Centerfield Ballhawk
Baseball player Jose Mendez worries about his poor performance with the bat and fears disappointing his father, a former ballplayer with an outstanding batting average.		
J CHR	Christopher, Matt	Play Ball!
Eleven-year-old cousins who are closer than most brothers, catcher Liam McCarthy and pitcher Carter Jones grew up playing baseball together. Now, their team is on the verge of winning the greatest championship of all: the Little League Baseball World Series. To reach the title match, however, they must first beat their number one rivals from Southern California. Little do they know that the game will prove to be just the first challenge they'll face on their road to the championships.		
J CHR	Christopher, Matt	Long Stretch at First Base
A shortstop in the Grasshopper League wants his brother chosen for the All Stars and refuses to acknowledge that his brother's rival may be better.		
J CHR	Christopher, Matt	Pressure Play
Travis, less obsessed with baseball than his fellow team members, tries to balance his playing with his hobby of horror videos and starts receiving anonymous threats warning him to spend more time on baseball.		
J CHR	Christopher, Matt	The Kid Who Only Hit Homers
A boy becomes a phenomenal baseball player one summer when a mysterious stranger resembling Babe Ruth befriends him.		
J CHR	Christopher, Matt	The Lucky Baseball Bat
Marty loses his lucky baseball bat, and his confidence along with it, and wonders if he will recover both in time to help the Tigers win the championship.		
J CHR	Christopher, Matt	Zero's Slider
While trying to ask Uncle Pete to coach for the Peach Street Mudders, Zero discovers that he can throw a slider when there's a big bandage on his injured thumb.		

Baseball

J DAY Day, Karen

No Cream Puffs!

Madison is not your average 12-year-old girl from Michigan in 1980. She doesn't use lipgloss, but she loves to play sports, and joins baseball for the summer – the first girl in Southern Michigan to play on a boys' team. The press calls her a star and a trailblazer, but Madison just wants to play ball. Who knew it would be so much pressure?

J GAN Gantos, Jack

Joey Pigza Loses Control

Joey Pigza really wants his six-week visit with his dad to count, to show him he's not as wired as he used to be, to show his dad how much he loves him. But Carter Pigza's not an easy guy to love. He's eager to make it up to Joey for past wrongs and to show him how to be a winner, to take control of his life. With his coaching, Joey's even learned how to pitch a baseball, and he's good at it. The trouble is, Joey's dad thinks taking control means giving up the things that keep Joey safe. And if he wants to please his dad, he's going to have to play by his rules, even when the rules don't make sense.

J GRE Green, Tim

Baseball Genius

Jalen DeLuca loves baseball. Unfortunately his dad can't afford to keep him on the travel team. His dad runs a diner and makes enough to cover the bills, but there isn't enough to cover any extras. So Jalen decides to take matters into his own hands and he sneaks into the home of the New York Yankee's star second baseman, James Yager, and steals a couple of balls from his personal batting cage. He knows that if he can sell them, he'll be able to keep himself on the team.

But like the best-laid plans – or in this case the worst! – Jalen's scheme goes wrong when Yager catches him. But Jalen has a secret: his baseball genius. He can analyze and predict almost exactly what a pitcher is going to do with his next pitch. He can't quite explain how he knows, he just knows. And after proving to Yager that he really can do this, using a televised game and predicting pitch after pitch with perfect accuracy, the two agree to a deal. Jalen will help Yager out of his batting slump and Yager won't press charges.

However, when he begins to suspect that the team's general manager has his own agenda, Jalen's going to need his friends and his unusual baseball talent to save not only Yager's career, but his own good name.

J GRE Green, Tim

Home Run

When he learns that his mother may lose her house, Josh is determined to enter a home-run derby in which the winner receives a new house.

J GRE Green, Tim

Lost Boy

After a near-fatal car accident, twelve-year-old Ryder's mother needs an operation they cannot afford and while a new friend tries to raise funds, Ryder travels with a grouchy, disabled neighbor, from Yankee Stadium to Turner Field seeking the major league baseball player who might be Ryder's father.

Baseball

SERIES Gutman, Dan **Babe & Me**
BASEBALL

On October 1, 1932, during Game Three of the Chicago Cubs -- New York Yankees World Series, Babe Ruth belted a long home run to straightaway centerfield.

According to legend, just before he hit, Babe pointed to the bleachers and boldly predicted he would slam the next pitch there.

Did he call the shot or didn't he? Witnesses never agreed. Like other baseball fans, Joe Stoshack wants to know the truth. But unlike other fans, Joe has the astonishing ability to travel through time and solve one of baseball's greatest puzzles.

Also in the Baseball Card Adventure series: *Abner & Me, Honus & Me, Jackie & Me, Jim & Me, Mickey & Me, Ray & Me, Roberto & Me, Satch & Me, Shoeless Joe & Me.*

J HEL Heldring, Thatcher **Roy Morelli Steps Up to the Plate**

Eighth-grader Roy Morelli can't wait for baseball season to start so he can take his rightful place as shortstop for the Pilchuk All-Star team. Being on the All-Stars is just the warm-up for the big leagues: the varsity baseball team at the high school Roy will go to next year. But when Roy's divorced parents find out he's failing history, they make him quit the All-Stars. It's not *his* fault the only thing interesting about history class is Valerie Hopkins, and she won't even give Roy the time of day.

J HOL Holohan, Maureen **Broadway Ballplayers: Left Out**

"A girl doesn't belong on the all-star team. She isn't tough enough."

The coaches and parents didn't even bother to whisper. To them, I was not an all-star. I was the girl playing shortstop. I was the girl up to bat. I was the easy out.

For weeks, I went to practice and stared down a coach who lobbed me the ball and stuck me on the bench. Then I went home to a father who told me I needed to play harder and study more. Nothing I did on the field or in school was ever enough.

One day I stood up at the plate with what felt like three strikes already against me. It came down to one pitch, one swing...one moment to prove them all wrong.

J JET Jeter, Derek **The Contract**

As a young boy, Derek Jeter dreams of being the shortstop for the New York Yankees. He even imagines himself in the World Series. So when Derek is chosen for the Little League Tigers, he hopes to play shortstop. But on the day of the assignments, Derek starts at second base. Still, he tries his best while he wishes and dreams of that shortstop spot. And to help him stay focused on school, his parents make him a contract: keep up the grades or no baseball. Derek makes sure he always plays his best game-on and off the baseball field!

Also in this series: *Hit & Miss; Change Up; Fair Ball; Curveball.*

Baseball

J KLA Klages, Ellen **Out of Left Field**

Every boy in the neighborhood knows Katy Gordon is their best pitcher, even though she's a girl. But when she tries out for Little League, it's a whole different story. Girls are not eligible, period. It is a boy's game and always has been. It's not fair, and Katy's going to fight back. Inspired by what she's learning about civil rights in school, she sets out to prove that she's not the only girl who plays baseball. With the help of friendly librarians and some tenacious research skills, Katy discovers the forgotten history of female ball players. Why does no one know about them? Where are they now? And how can one ten-year-old change people's minds about what girls can do?

J LUP Lupica, Mike **Heavy Hitters**

Ben and his friends, the Core Four Plus One, are so excited to play in their town's All-Star Baseball league. But in the first game of the season Ben gets hit by a pitch. It's never happened to him before and it shakes him up. Another player on Ben's team, Justin, is acting really weirdly. Ben's known Justin for a while and they're friendly but he's not one of Ben's closest "boys." Justin is the team's best hitter but his behavior on and off the field is erratic. Ben discovers that Justin's parents are getting a divorce and Justin is thinking about quitting the team. Like good teammates do, Justin helps Ben deal with his issues at bat while Ben is there for his friend while his family is struggling.

Also in this series: *Game Changers; Play Makers.*

SERIES Lupica, Mike **The Missing Baseball**
ZACH

There's nothing eight-year-old twins Zach and Zoe Walker love more than playing sports and solving mysteries. And when those two worlds collide...well, it doesn't get any better than that. So when a baseball signed by Zach's favorite major league player suddenly goes missing--the search is on! Luckily, amateur sleuths Zach and Zoe are on the case. Can they solve the mystery and find the ball before it's lost for good?

J LUP Lupica, Mike **The Only Game**

After a near-fatal car accident, twelve-year-old Ryder's mother needs an operation they cannot afford and while a new friend tries to raise funds, Ryder travels with a grouchy, disabled neighbor, from Yankee Stadium to Turner Field seeking the major league baseball player who might be Ryder's father.

J MAD Maddox, Jake **Batter Up!**

Caleb has always batted with the same wood bat until the other team accuses Caleb of cheating by tampering with the bat! Now Caleb is forced to use the aluminum bat. How is he supposed to help his team win when he keeps striking out?

J MAD Maddox, Jake **Behind the Plate**

Danny has been the star catcher on his baseball team for three years, but this year his feelings about his parents' divorce seem to be effecting even routine plays.

Baseball

J MAD Maddox, Jake Caught Stealing

When his father's valuable signed baseball disappears during the team's sleepover, Ian Shin, catcher for the Scottsville Knights, suspects the new pitcher, Hunter Yates, but he cannot be sure, and his trust in his teammates is shattered--so he must uncover the truth to bring the team back together.

J MAD Maddox, Jake Outfield Outcast

Malcolm is used to being the star first-baseman of his middle school team, but this year he has serious competition from a former benchwarmer, so he finds himself stuck in the outfield--and having to learn to put the team first.

J MCK Terrell, Brandon Jim Nasium is a Strikeout King

In his continuing search to find a sport that he can play without embarrassing himself, ten-year-old Jim Nasium is trying baseball--unfortunately he is proving to be a strikeout waiting to happen, and nobody will not let him forget it.

J MOO Moore, Steve King of the Bench: No Fear!

Steve is King of the Bench. No brag. It's just a fact. But this year, Steve and his friends are excited to try out for the Spiro T. Agnew Middle School baseball team. The only problem is, after watching another player get beamed by a fastball, Steve has developed a serious case of bean-o-phobia: the fear of getting hit by a pitch. If Steve ever wants to get off the bench and get in the game, he's going to have to muster up some courage, and fast.

J DEA Myers, Walter Dean The Journal of Biddy Owens, the Negro Leagues; Birmingham, Alabama, 1948

Biddy Owens is the batboy for the Birmingham Black Barons, one of the best teams in the Negro Leagues. With a supporting cast of characters that includes some of the greatest players ever, Biddy's story covers the games, the grueling road trips, racial segregation, and day-to-day life in Birmingham during this pivotal time in American history.

J PAR Park, Barbara Skinnybones

"I've played Little League baseball for six years now. But to tell you the truth, I'm not exactly what you'd call a real good athlete. Actually, I'm not even real okay. Basically, what I'm trying to say here is, I stink."

For the smallest kid on the baseball team, Alex "Skinnybones" Frankovitch has a major-league bigmouth! But even Alex knows he's gone too far when he brags his way into a pitching contest with T.J. Stoner, the best baseball player -- and biggest creep -- in the entire school. What a mistake! This might be one mess that not even Alex can talk his way out of!

Baseball

J PAT Patneau, David **Haunting at Home Plate**

With only a few games left in the regular season, Nelson just wants to play baseball and maybe, one day, realize his dream of pitching. Then his manager is suspended and two players leave the team. On top of that, it seems that the park where the team practices may be haunted. Nelson convinces his cousin Mike (short for Michelle) to manage his team so the boys can stay together. It's Mike who tells them the story of Andy Kirk, a boy who long ago fell from a cedar tree to his death while watching his older brother play ball. When messages to the team begin to appear in the dirt near home plate and are signed "AK", the team must decide what to make of them. Is the ghost of Andy Kirk trying to tell them something? And should the team do what the messages suggest?

J RIT Ritter, John H. **The Boy Who Saved Baseball**

Tom Gallagher finds himself in a tight spot. The fate of Dillontown rests on the outcome of one baseball game, winner take all. And it's all because Tom had to open his big mouth. If only he could get Dante Del Gato -- the greatest hitter to ever play the game -- to coach the team. But crazy ol' Del Gato hasn't spoken to folks in years, not after walking away from the game in disgrace just before his team played in its first World Series. Maybe Tom has one more hope: Cruz de la Cruz, the mysterious boy who just rode into town on horseback claiming to know the secret of hitting. Not to mention the secrets of Del Gato...

J RIT Ritter, John H. **Fenway Fever**

Twelve-year-old Alfredo "Stats" Pagano and Boston Red Sox pitcher Billee Orbitt work together to break a potential curse at Fenway Park.

J WIL Wiles, Deborah **The Aurora County All Stars**

Twelve-year-old House Jackson is having a bad time. Mr. Norwood Rhinehart Beauregard Boyd has left him a legacy of mystery as well as one wheezy old dog named Eudora Welty. And he's being tortured by full-of-herself Finesse Shotz, who thinks her pageant for the 200th anniversary of Aurora County is MUCH more important than House and his best friend Cleebo's dumb baseball game, even if it is the biggest game of the year.

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