

BASEBALL BOOKS

FICTION

J GIF

All the Way Home by Patricia Reilly Giff, 2001

It's 1941 in New York and Brick and Mariel become friends in an unusual turn of events. A common love of baseball helps form their friendship. Brick comes to live with Mariel and her Mom when the farm he lives on suffers a terrible fire. Mariel, although she loves her mother dearly, wants to find her birth mother. They help each other to "find their way home."

J GUT

Mickey & Me by Dan Gutman, 2003

Thirteen year-old Joe Stoshack is like most other boys his age who play little league, except he can travel through time with the help of his baseball cards. When Joe's dad gives him his prized Mickey Mantle rookie card, Joe is to go and warn Mickey Mantle about an upcoming injury. However, his cousin plays a trick on him, and Joe doesn't end up in 1951, where he thinks he will. If you like this book, try any of the others in this "Baseball Card Adventure" series.

J HOL

Penny from Heaven by Jennifer L. Holm (2007 Newbery Honor), 2006

It is 1953, and Penny lives in New Jersey with her Mom and grandparents. Her dad's big Italian family lives a few blocks away. Her dad died when she was a baby, and no one talks about him at all! Enjoy Penny's day to day activities with her cousin Frankie as they get into trouble over the summer. Find out what happened to her dad-and how she finds out.

J KOR

Swindle by Gordon Korman, 2008

How would you feel if you found an old Babe Ruth baseball card, and when you went to see how much it was worth, the storeowner lied to you and said it was a reproduction? But he bought it anyway! This happened to Griffin, an eleven-year old who lives in New York. Later that night he sees the same man on television, telling the world it is worth \$1 million. Read this fun adventure to see "the plan" that Griffin and his friends devise to get his card back and teach this man a lesson.

J LUP

Heat by Mike Lupica, 2006

This is a great book about a young boy who loves baseball. Michael Arroyo lives in the Bronx and is a great ball player. He idolizes the Yankees and lives near the famed stadium. When opposing coaches question Michael's age for his baseball team, his hopes of playing in the Little League World Series may be over. Michael, his older brother Carlos, and his best friend Manny help maintain things at their home, which is not the average home situation.

J MAC

Edward's Eyes by Patricia MacLachlan, 2007

Jake and his family are very close, especially he and his younger brother Edward, whom he helped raise. The family spends their summers with the neighborhood kids, playing baseball in the front yard. Jake realizes that Edward can see things that the rest of them are unable to, which is an asset to him when playing baseball. When Edward unexpectedly dies, learn how his eyes help someone else see what Edward could.

J PAR **Keeping Score** by Linda Sue Park, 2008

Maggie lives in New York City and loves baseball! Her world revolves around it. It is the early 1950s, and she spends her time between the firehouse, where her dad used to work, school, and her house, listening to Brooklyn Dodgers games. A “new guy” starts at the firehouse, Jim, and he is a Giants’ fan-the Dodgers’ biggest rival. Their friendship grows when he teaches her how to properly score a baseball game. If you like baseball, you will love this book. See how their friendship evolves even when he is sent overseas to fight in Korea.

J ZIN **Holding at Third** by Linda Zinnen, 2004

Matt Bainter loves baseball and he plays baseball. All of a sudden his world is turned upside down when he and his family learn that his older brother Tom has cancer. To help his brother, Matt and his mom move temporarily with his brother to a new town and a new school so Tom can receive treatment. Matt struggles, as anyone would, with school, baseball, and a new town, where he doesn’t know anyone. See how baseball helps him cope with this very difficult life changing event.

NON-FICTION

J 796.357 **Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues** , 1994

by Patricia C. McKissack & Frederick McKissack, Jr.

This book gives a rich history to baseball and the Negro Leagues. The McKissacks tell the colorful history of many players whom baseball fans have heard of as well as many more obscure but important players. The book also includes many photographs, a list of player profiles, and a timeline, which is useful and informative.

J 796.357 **We Are the Ship: the Story of Negro League Baseball** by Kadir Nelson, 2008

As a fan of the game try this book that takes a look at the history of the Negro Leagues of the early 20th Century. Kadir Nelson’s beautifully painted pages of many great baseball players perfectly complement the text. The book is divided into “innings” rather than chapters.

J Bio **You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!** by Jonah Winter, 2009

Koufax

This picture book biography is about one of the greatest professional baseball pitchers of all time. Koufax is Jewish and a left-hander. This is a simple story of his brief and turbulent pitching career with the Los Angeles Dodgers. The book also includes a glossary of baseball terms, which could be very useful for a rookie to the sport. The author writes a great introductory story to a piece of baseball history.