



PAWS BOOK CLUB

WEEKLY BOOK LISTS

WEEK #1: JUNE 12

Comerica Bank



KINDERGARTEN: *I Got It!* by David Wiesner

David Wiesner brings his trademark artistry and rich imagination to the iconic American game of baseball. The few seconds after the ball leaves the bat can be infinitely long. For this eager young outfielder, there's plenty of time to envision the increasingly fantastic and funny situations that might interfere with making the catch. Summoning determination and courage, he overcomes the imaginary obstacles and turns them into a springboard for success. *I Got It!* reveals the extraordinary within the ordinary, taking readers on an amazing journey in a few seconds on a baseball field.

1ST GRADE: *Amira Can Catch!* by Kevin Christofora

Amira, the new kid in school lands in a new hometown after leaving her home country of Syria over a year ago. She is shy and a little scared as the teacher introduces her to class. Amira is rapidly welcomed by Nick and the rest of the All Star team. She adapts quickly to their silly ways. With a little help on Amira's spelling and math at school, Amira's mom might be more likely to let her play baseball with the team after school. The Hometown All Stars learn all about hotdogs, maps, fingers up, fingers down, train tunnels, Willie Mays, #24 and how to catch 3 different types of pop fly balls. True to real life, you have to learn how to hit, run, throw and catch before you play a real game of baseball. Batter up for a great tale - both fact and fantasy - that celebrate the spirit of our national pastime. The Hometown All Stars series helps children learn beginning sports skills with real life coaching techniques, combined with education and most importantly how to have FUN.

2ND GRADE: *The Kid from Diamond Street* by Audrey Vernick

Audrey Vernick and Steven Salerno have again collaborated to bring us a captivating picture book about a compelling but little-known piece of baseball history. Beginning in 1922, when Edith Houghton was only ten years old, she tried out for a women's professional baseball team, the Philadelphia Bobbies. Though she was the smallest on the field, soon reporters were talking about "The Kid" and her incredible skill, and crowds were packing the stands to see her play. Her story reminds us that baseball has never been about just men and boys. Baseball is also about talented girls willing to work hard to play any way they can.

3 RD GRADE: *Catching the Moon* by Crystal Hubbard

If there was anything in the world better than playing baseball, Marcenia Lyle didn't know what it was. As a young girl in the 1930s, she chased down fly balls and stole bases, and dreamed of one day playing professional ball. With spirit, spunk, and a great passion for the sport, Marcenia struggled to overcome the objections of family, friends, and coaches, who felt a girl had no place in the field. When she finally won a position in a baseball summer camp sponsored by the St. Louis Cardinals, Marcenia was on her way to catching her dream. Full of warmth and youthful energy, *Catching the Moon* is the story of the girl who grew up to become the first woman to play for an all-male professional baseball team. Readers everywhere will be inspired by her courage to dream and determination to succeed.

4 TH GRADE: *Waiting for Pumpsie* by Barry Wittenstein

In 1959 the Boston Red Sox was the last team in the Major Leagues to integrate. But when they call Elijah "Pumpsie" Green up from the minors, Bernard is overjoyed to see a black player on his beloved home team. And, when Pumpsie's first home game is scheduled, Bernard and his family head to Fenway Park. Bernard is proud of Pumpsie and hopeful that this historic event is the start of great change in America. This fictionalized account captures the true story of baseball player Pumpsie Green's rise to the major leagues. The story is a snapshot of the Civil Rights Movement and a great discussion starter about the state of race relations in the United States today.

5 TH GRADE: *Able to Play* by Glenn Stout

Able to Play shares the inspiring stories of four baseball players. Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown, Ron Santo, Jim Abbott, and Curtis Pride faced physical challenges other players didn't have. With determination and guts, they didn't just overcome; they excelled. This book is a game-changing celebration of overcoming odds.

6 TH GRADE: *The Hero Two Doors Down* by Sharon Robinson

Steven Satlow is an eight-year-old boy living in Brooklyn, New York, which means he only cares about one thing - the Dodgers. Steve's love for the baseball team is passed down to him from his father. The two of them spend hours reading the sports pages and listening to games on the radio. Aside from an occasional run-in with his teacher, life is pretty simple for Steve. But then Steve hears a rumor that an African American family is moving to his all-Jewish neighborhood. It's 1948 and some of his neighbors are against it. Steve knows that this is wrong. His hero, Jackie Robinson, broke the color barrier in baseball the year before. Then it happens - Steve's new neighbor is Jackie Robinson! Steve is beyond excited about living two doors down from the Robinson family. He can't wait to meet Jackie. This is going to be the best baseball season yet! How many kids ever get to become friends with their hero?