



## Adult Books

Dickson, Paul. ***The Hidden Language of Baseball: How Signs and Sign-stealing Have Influenced the Course of Our National Pastime.*** New York: Walker & Co., 2003.

Baseball is set apart from other sports by many things, but few are more distinctive than the intricate systems of coded language that govern action on the field and give baseball its unique appeal. Baseball historian Paul Dickson examines for the first time the rich legacy of baseball's hidden language, offering fans everywhere a smorgasbord of history and anecdote.

Johnson, Richard. ***Boston Braves.*** Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2001.

On March 13, 1953, the Boston Braves left their hometown after playing 76 seasons of baseball in Boston. They ended up in Atlanta via Milwaukee, but their rich history was already made in New England, where they captured ten pennants and one world championship. In *Images of Sports: The Boston Braves*, author Richard Johnson tells the story of this beloved team.

Kettmann, Steve. ***One Day at Fenway: A Day in the Life of Baseball in America.*** New York: Atria Books, 2005.

Fenway Park, Saturday, 8/30/03: Yankees versus Red Sox. Not just a special day in a historic rivalry but a unique one in the long tradition of baseball writing. With *One Day at Fenway*, Kettmann goes beyond the ballpark to bring you interviews and anecdotes involving all the major players -- from Red Sox owner John Henry and CEO Larry Lucchino, privately second-guessing Grady Little's managing moves during the game; to Yankee skipper Joe Torre, worrying on the bench about Mariano Rivera, who can't find home plate; to Sox slugger Manny Ramirez, who missed the game with a throat infection. And there's more: the famous and infamous players in the field and in the boardrooms, rabid fans on both sides, the not-so-innocent bystanders -- all here in this brilliant re-creation of a day in the life of America's favorite pastime.

Jennison, Christopher. ***Baseball Math: Grandslam Activities and Projects for Grades 4 - 8.*** Tucson, AZ: Good Year Books, 2005.

Students practice and apply important math skills as they enjoy popular sports and follow their favorite teams and sports heroes. Activities and projects aimed at both boys and girls are based on historical and real-life situations. They involve kids in scores and score keeping, records and statistics, travel budgets and the cost of seats and refreshments, building the stadium of their dreams, and much more.

Adair, Robert Kemp. ***The Physics of Baseball***. New York: Perennial, 2002.

An exceptional volume about some of the physical principles involved in the game of baseball. The flight of the ball, pitching, batting, and the properties of bats are discussed in nontechnical language that can be understood by young adults familiar with introductory physics. Baseball players or fans and budding physicists should be intrigued by Adair's explanations of the effect of the stitching on the distance the ball travels, of the relative merits of wooden and aluminum bats, and of why spitting on the ball does make a difference.

***Baseball as America: Seeing Ourselves Through Our National Game***. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2002.

Featuring more than 30 essays by writers, players, scholars, and fans, including John Grisham, Tom Brokaw, Dave Barry, Roger Kahn, Paul Simon, George Plimpton, Penny Marshall, and others, *Baseball As America* will explore every rich facet of the national pastime. In examining such formative phenomena as immigration, industrialization, popular culture, and technology, it will reveal how baseball has served as both a public reflection of and a catalyst for the evolution of American culture and society. *Baseball As America* will also examine how the American landscape, our language, literature, entertainment, food, and summertime living all bear the mark of a 19th-century game that has become inextricably intertwined with our nation's values and aspirations.

Frommer, Harvey. ***Old Time Baseball: America's Pastime in the Gilded Age***. Lanham, MD: Taylor Trade Pub. 2006.

Frommer's latest book takes us to the birthplace of America's most beloved sport. Starting from baseball's humble beginnings, Frommer vividly introduces the reader to the trailblazing personalities that shaped baseball's history. From the first games in Madison, New York to the rise of the National League, Frommer vividly recreates the energy of this early time. Frommer's expertise lends itself to tell the magical story of baseball's history and insight into an era that is not to be forgotten.

Ward, Geoffrey C. ***Baseball: An Illustrated History***. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1994.

Baseball is indeed a mirror of American life, and Ward and Burns show how well America's story is told through baseball. This book is the companion to a nine-part PBS television documentary. In format and approach it resembles the authors' previous best seller, *The Civil War*. Each chapter, or "inning," proceeds chronologically with a dominant theme and dramatis personae. The profusion of striking illustrations add an extra dimension to each chapter. The images are interlaced with essays by such writers as Roger Angell, Robert Creamer, and Thomas Boswell on the hold that baseball has on ordinary people. The narrative gains force and momentum in sections examining the injustice of segregation and the forgotten heroes of the Negro leagues. A magnificent, exhaustively researched chronicle in words and pictures of our nation's pastime, and how it came to be what it is.

Watts, Robert G. ***Keep Your Eye on the Ball***. New York: W. H. Freeman, 2000.

In *Keep Your Eye on the Ball*, Robert G. Watts and A. Terry Bahill--engineers by vocation, baseball fans by avocation--have devised a series of experiments that put some of baseball's most cherished myths to the test. By applying physics, psychology, physiology, and other scientific principles to baseball, the authors have resolved, once and for all, some of the controversial issues that have intrigued fans for decades

## Young Adult Books

Bing, Christopher. ***Ernest L. Thayer's Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888***. Brooklyn, NY: Handprint Books, 2000.

Ernest Thayer's poem *Casey at the Bat* has taken a well-deserved place as an enduring icon of Americana. Christopher Bing's magnificent version of this immortal ballad of the flailing 19th-century baseball star is rendered as though it had been newly discovered in a hundred-year-old scrapbook. Bing seamlessly weaves real and trompe l'oeil reproductions of artifacts--period baseball cards, tickets, advertisements, and a host of other memorabilia into the narrative to present a rich and multifaceted panorama of a bygone era.

Curlee, Lynn. ***Ballpark: The Story of America's Baseball Fields***. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005.

In *Ballpark*, Sibert Honor Award winner Lynn Curlee explores both the histories and the cultural significances of America's most famous ballparks. Grand in scope and illustrations, and filled with nifty anecdotes about these "green cathedrals," *Ballpark* also explores the changing social climate that accompanied baseball's rise from a minor sport to the national pastime.

Driscoll, Laura. ***Curious George at the Baseball Game***. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Curious George and the man in the yellow hat attend a baseball game to cheer on the Mudville Miners.

Dorling Kindersley. ***Baseball ABC***. London: Dorling Kindersley Pub., 2001.

In *Baseball ABC* not only will readers pick up on the basics of the game, such as "home plate" for H and "shortstop" for S, but they can also glean history lessons from such examples as "Babe Ruth" under B, "Yankee Stadium" and "Yogi Berra" under Y and the infamous left field wall at Fenway, the "Green Monster" under G.

Kelley, James. ***Eyewitness: Baseball***. New York: Dorling Kindersley Pub., 2000.

*Eyewitness Baseball* tells the story of America's pastime--from its beginnings in 19th-century English schoolyards to its current status as one of the world's favorite games. Broken down into helpful sections on the diamond, umpires,

pitching, batting, the hall of fame, the Babe, and so on, each topic is clearly explained and illustrated with several photographs.

Macy, Sue. ***A Whole New Ball Game: The Story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.*** New York, N.Y : Puffin Books, 1995.

Macy offers an excellent introduction to one of the least explored areas of baseball history. Established by Chicago Cubs owner and chewing-gum magnate Phil Wrigley in 1943 as an entertainment alternative to the war-depleted major leagues, the AAGPBL (All American Girls Professional Baseball League) lasted until 1954--and until very recently was all but forgotten.

Herzog, Brad. ***H is for Home Run: A Baseball Alphabet.*** Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2004.

In keeping with the established format of this series, Herzog provides a baseball-related term for each letter of the alphabet. Each page contains the letter in upper- and lowercase as well as an alliterative verse that often makes reading aloud a challenge. The accompanying sidebars, set in a smaller font, provide additional facts for advanced enthusiasts

Norworth, Jack. ***Take Me Out to the Ballgame.*** New York: Little, Brown, and Co., 2006.

In this rendering of the beloved song Take Me Out to the Ballgame, Jim Burke captures an exciting era of America's favorite pastime. Filled with fan-pleasing trivia and nostalgic paintings, here is a remarkable orchestration that brings the sights, sounds and smells of the ballpark, a century ago, vividly to life.

## Media

***Modern Marvels: Baseball Parks [DVD]*** 50 min. The History Channel. 1999.

Modern Marvels traces the development of the old ballpark from the days of sandlots and bleachers to the retro stadiums with up-to-the-minute features that are bringing fans back to the game.

***Baseball [DVD]*** 10 discs, 1380 min. PBS, 1994.

The series, told in "nine innings," spans 150 years, starting with the myth-debunking tale of baseball's true beginnings -- when it was a game "one degree above mayhem." Then follow the growth of America's National Pastime through the decades of glory and record-setting achievements, as well as the scandals, the bigotry, and the big money. The series portrays the game as a mirror of America itself -- the passions, prejudices, and ambitions that have shape the country.

***Sports: Science in Action [DVD]*** 24 min. Disney, 2005.

Learn about the physics behind sports, take a look at the mental aspects that world-class athletes bring to their efforts, and explore why people play and watch sports.