



Read + Think = Grow

## Sports Stories

### Preschool and Kindergarten

(These books are all shelved in Picture Books unless otherwise noted)

Boelts, Maribeth. [Big Daddy, frog wrestler](#) (2000)

Curtis, a young frog and wrestling fan, is thrilled when his father, Big Daddy, returns to his wrestling career.

Bridwell, Norman. [Clifford's sports day](#) (1996)

Clifford participates in outdoor sports day activities.

Brown, Marc Tolan. [D.W. flips](#) (1987)

Arthur's little sister learns that gymnastics takes a lot of practice.

Egan, Tim. [Roasted peanuts](#) (2006)

Sam the horse gets picked to be on the local baseball team, but unfortunately his friend Jackson the cat, despite being a good thrower, is not selected.

Jordan, Deloris. [Salt in his shoes: Michael Jordan in pursuit of a dream](#) (2000)

Young Michael Jordan learns that in the game of basketball, determination is more important than size.

Lasky, Kathryn. [Tumble bunnies](#) (2006)

Feeling untalented in the team sports scheduled for his school's sports spectacular, Clyde the rabbit develops his own event, a freestyle tumbling routine with a dazzling move called the "twirly burly."

London, Jonathan. [Froggy plays soccer](#) (1999)

Though Froggy is very excited when his team makes the soccer championship, he makes a mistake on the field that almost costs his team the game.

Smith, Charles R. [Let's play baseball!](#) (2006)

A baseball tries to talk a young boy into going outside to play by describing the throwing, catching, and hitting they can do together.

### Grades 1 and 2

(These books are all shelved in Grade 1-3 readers unless otherwise noted)

Adler, David. [Young Cam Jansen and the baseball mystery](#) (2001)

Cam uses her photographic memory to find a lost baseball.

Blackaby, Susan. [Best soccer player](#) (2005)

When the children play soccer, Katy is the best player of them all.

Cosby, Bill. [Hooray for the Dandelion Warriors!](#) (1999)

Little Bill and his friends can't agree on a name for their baseball team.

Donaldson, Julia. [Spinderella](#) (2006)

*Selected by Children's Librarians at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library  
Updated 11/2006*

When Spiderella and her seven spider siblings want to play soccer, she, along with her Hairy Godmother, must convince the others that numbers are important. Includes facts and activities relating to numbers and soccer

Heiligman, Deborah. [Mike Swan, sink or swim](#) (1998)  
Mike learns to swim with the help of an unusual food.

Herman, Gail. [Slip! Slide! Skate!](#) (1999)  
A skating class prepares for an ice show.

Marzollo, Jean. [Hockey hero](#) (1998)  
Hal learns that scoring goals isn't the only way to become a hockey star.

Prager, Annabelle. [Baseball birthday party](#) (1995)  
Billy has a party to show off his baseball skills, but his helper's mistake almost spoils his plans.

West, Tracey [Soccer around the world](#) (2006)  
Maya and Miguel learn from soccer star Eddie Johnson how soccer is played around the world.

### **Grades 3 and 4**

(These books are all shelved in Grade 3-4 Fiction unless otherwise noted.)

Berenstain, Stan [Berenstain Bears and the female fullback](#) (1993)  
Queenie McBear wants to join the boy's football team.

Christopher, Matt. [All-star fever](#) (1995)  
Bus wants desperately to be picked for his county's all-star baseball team.

Dadey, Debbie. [Giants don't go snowboarding](#) (1998)  
Could the large man giving snowboarding lessons really be a giant lurking on Ruby Mountain?

Greene, Stephanie. [Owen Foote, soccer star](#) (1998)  
Eight-year-old Owen and his best friend join a soccer team, testing their soccer skills and their friendship.

Hardcastle, Michael. [Hit it!](#) (2006)  
Scott and Kel are rivals on the same soccer team, the Aces. As they compete to be the team's top scorer, their team chases after the league championship. Scott and Kel need to decide what's more important, their personal goals or teamwork

Herman, Gail. [Just like Mike](#) (2000)  
When Michael's mother remarries and his last name changes to Jordan, the kids expect him to play like his namesake on the basketball court.

Krensky, Stephen. [Arthur and the seventh inning stretch](#) (2001)  
Binky learns the value of pre-game warm-ups. This book is part of the **Marc Brown Arthur good sports chapter book** series.

Levy, Elizabeth. [Karate class mystery](#) (1996)  
Friends solve the mystery of a missing karate belt

Park, Margaret. [Harvey and Rosie—and Ralph](#) (1992)  
A magic spell turns Harvey's dog into a girl just long enough to pull his soccer team out of its slump.

Ransom, Candice F. [Third grade stars](#) (1994)  
Third grader Amber discovers a passion for gymnastics.

Zucker, Jonny. [Basketball war](#) (2006)

When their arch-rivals get a new coach--and an entirely new team--mid-season, basketball team captain Jim and his best friend Ali do some investigating that uncovers a sinister plot.

## **Grades 5 and 6**

(These books are all shelved in Juvenile Fiction (jF) unless otherwise noted.)

Brooks, Bruce. [Shark](#) (1998)

In this entry to the **Wolfbay Wings** series, Shark alienates himself from his teammates as his hockey game improves.

Calhoun, T.B. [Race ready](#) (1998)

Three friends find adventure while traveling with a NASCAR caravan in this entry to the **NASCAR pole Position adventures** series.

Christopher, Matt. [Wheel wizards](#) (2000)

Angry that he can no longer participate in sports, Seth is amazed to discover wheelchair basketball.

Edwards, T.J. [Mystery of the stolen football](#) (1995) Mystery

One of the Smithfield Sonics is accused of stealing a valuable autographed football. Other **Sports mystery** titles include **Haunted soccer field**.

Gutman, Dan. [Million dollar shot](#) (1997)

Eleven-year-old Eddie gets a chance to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot at the NBA finals.

Holohan, Maureen. [Friday nights](#) (2000)

Five friends form a basketball team and face serious competition in a summer league. This book is part of the **Broadway Ballplayers** series, focusing on women in sports.

Korman, Gordan. [No more dead dogs](#) (2000)

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play, where he becomes wrapped up in the production.

Lupica, Mike. [Heat](#) (2006)

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Myers, Walter Dean. [Journal of Biddy Owens: the Negro leagues](#) (2001)

Teenager Biddy Owens' 1948 journal about working for the Birmingham Black Barons includes the games, players, and racism the team faces

Robinson, Sharon. [Safe at home](#) (2006)

After the death of his father, Elijah Breeze, a ten-year-old African American boy, moves back to New York City with his mother and attends a summer baseball camp as he tries to make new friends and adapt to urban ways.

Strupp, Peter. [Quarterback attack](#) (1995)

You are the Kid, a young quarterback in your first year as a starter. How will you perform in the championship game?

West, Tracey. [Keep on swinging!](#) (2006)

Yankee Irving loves baseball-- especially Babe Ruth-- so when Babe's bat is stolen, Yankee enlists the aid of a talking baseball to go after the thief.