

Genre: Sports Stories

Bibliography

This kit contains a wide variety of individual titles that fit the genre category of "Sports Stories." The titles vary in their interest levels, reading levels, number of pages, themes etc., in order to provide students with "choice" in their reading for pleasure. Note that if more than one interest level (IL) is listed, the first is from the publisher. Publishers tend to rate titles for lower grade levels than reviewers.





If you would like a second or third copy of a title, or more titles beyond what is in the kit, your Teacher-Librarian or Library Clerk will be able to help you find titles in your school's collection, or interlibrary loan copies from other schools.

We hope that your students enjoy these titles and expand the genres that they regularly choose to read. A "Passport to Genres" activity, where students read one title from each genre, is one way to encourage this. If you have any questions about any of them, please feel free to contact me.

Joan

Genre: Sports Stories

Selected by Joan Pearce

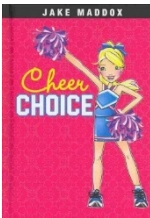
	<p><u>Bank Shot</u> (<i>Lorimer Sports Stories</i>) by Valerie Pankratz Froese, c2021 (IL: 4-8, 5-8; RL: 2.9)</p> <p>“Jo loves playing basketball in gym class, and she is surprised when she makes the school team. Because she has to babysit her younger brother, she's afraid her mom will make her give up her place on the team, so instead, Jo hatches a plan to have a neighbor secretly babysit so she can play. But the deception and secrets start getting to her after a few close calls. While Jo shows initiative and problem-solving skills both on and off the court, will her mom see it that way when she's found out?” – <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Behind the Plate</u> by Jake Maddox, c2013 (IL: 3-6; RL: 3.3)</p> <p>“Danny is a skilled baseball catcher, but suddenly, he can no longer make easy throws. He has a case of the yips. Could his parents' divorce be behind his problems on the field?” - <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>The Big Game</u> by Tim Green, c2018 (IL: 4-7; RL: 4.4)</p> <p>“Danny Owens is dedicating his seventh-grade football season to his recently deceased father, an NFL legend, but the pressure to succeed is magnified by his inability to read.” - <i>Follett</i></p>
	<p><u>Blue Line Breakaway</u> by Jake Maddox, c2019 (IL: 3-6; RL: 4.3)</p> <p>“Eleven-year-old Jack Wickman is tired of skating in his big sister's shadow, after all she is five years older and a goalie (on the boys' team!) and he skates center so they really should not be compared to each other--he is convinced that he has the hockey talent, so all he needs is the chance to make a breakaway of his own.” – <i>Follett</i></p>



Booked

by Kwame Alexander, c2022 (IL: 5-7, 5-8; RL: 4.7)

“Twelve-year-old Nick is a soccer-loving boy who absolutely *hates* books. In this graphic novel version of *Booked*, the follow-up to the Newbery Medal-winning novel *The Crossover*, soccer, family, love, and friendship take center stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' divorce, stand up to a bully, and impress the girl of his dreams. These challenges--which seem even harder than scoring a tie-breaking, game-winning goal--change his life, as well as his best friend's.” - *Pub.*



Cheer Choice

by Jake Maddox, c2014 (IL: 3-6; RL: 3.6)

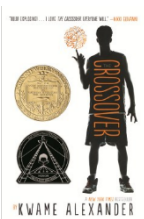
“When Colleen's best friend and co-captain changes schools, she's devastated. The cheerleading squad won't be the same without Meredith. But when Colleen learns that Meredith is teaching her new squad the routine they created together for an upcoming competition, she's hurt. Colleen has to decide what's more important - keeping her friend or coming in first.” - *Pub.*



The Comeback

by E.L. Shen, c2021 (IL: 3-5; RL: 6.4)

“Twelve-year-old Maxine Chen dreams of being a figure skating champion, but a remarkably talented new girl at the arena and a racist classmate at school test her resolve.” - *Follett*



The Crossover (*Crossover, Bk. 1*)

by Kwame Alexander, c2019 (IL: 3-7, 5-8; RL: 4.3)

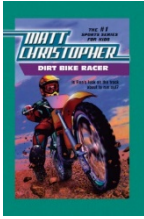
“Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.” - *Follett*



Defending Champ

by Mike Lupica, c2021 (IL: 5-8; RL: 5.6)

“When the girls soccer team learns it has been canceled due to budget cuts, they come up with a plan to raise the necessary funds through a face-off with the boys' team, which is led by sneering superstar Chase Gwinn.” - *Follett*



Dirt Bike Racer

by Matt Christopher, c1979 (RL: 4.0)

“When the girls soccer team learns it has been canceled due to budget cuts, they come up with a plan to raise the necessary funds through a face-off with the boys' team, which is led by sneering superstar Chase Gwinn.” - *Follett*



Extra Innings

by Tiki & Ronde Barber, c2014 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 5.9)

“Batter up Football, basketball, and now baseball--is there anything the Barber brothers won't try their best to do? The Barbers join the baseball team in this home-run adventure from NFL superstars and bestselling authors Tiki and Ronde Barber.

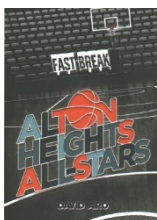
Tiki and Ronde have their sights set on a big diamond--a baseball diamond. Sure, they're experienced athletes, but they've never played baseball before. Do they have what it takes to make the team?” - *Pub,*



Free Throw

by Jake Maddox, c2007 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL: 2.6)

“Since Derek is the tallest kid on his basketball team, his coach decides to have him play center instead of Jason. Derek thinks this is a lucky break, until Jason stops passing the ball to him.” - *Follett*



Fast Break (Alton Heights All-Stars)

by David Aro, c2022 (IL: Middle School; RL: 1.6)

"It's the annual citywide youth basketball tournament. Youth teams from all over the city have come together to play on a real pro basketball court. The All-Stars quickly realize they're in over their heads. Other teams have real coaches, real uniforms, great sneakers, and real tournament experience. All the All-Stars have is talent and determination. The team has to make a decision: give up and go home or play to win." - *Pub.*



Final Season

by Tim Green, c2021 (IL: 3-7, 4-7; RL: 5.8)

“When his NFL dad is diagnosed with ALS, middle school quarterback Ben Redd is determined to have a winning season, which may be his final as he watches the heavy toll the incurable disease is taking on his dad.” - *Follett*



Gold Medal Summer

by Donna Freitas, c2012 (IL: 5-8; RL: 4.5)

“After fourteen-year-old Joey experiences her first kiss and learns that her best friend wants to quit competitive gymnastics, she considers giving up her dream of winning gold medals in order to have a normal life, even as her sister and assistant coach urge her to reach a new level.” - *Follett*



Gabby Garcia's Ultimate Playbook

(*Gabby Garcia's Ultimate Playbook, Book 1*)

by Iva-Marie Palmer, c2017 (IL: 3-7, 4-7; RL: 5.2)


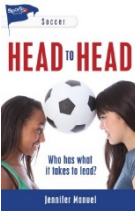


“If life were a baseball game, all-star pitcher Gabby Garcia would be having her Best. Season. EVER Until she's suddenly sent to another school and her winning streak is about to disappear--both on and off the field. But Gabby never gives up She has a PLAN to keep her champion status intact, and every step of is written out--PLAY by PLAY. How could it not work? This new series written by Iva-Marie Palmer is filled with funny illustrations, sports facts, and blooper-reel moments that will have readers laughing and rooting for more.” - *Follett*



Ghost

by Jason Reynolds, c2017 (IL: 5-8, 5-9; RL: 4.6)

“Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team, team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons, it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems and

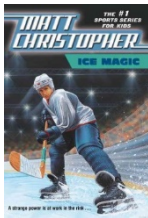
	<p>running away from them, until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?" - <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Go Long!</u> by Tiki Barber, c2008 (IL: 3-7, 4-7; RL: 4.6)</p> <p>“After Coach Spangler leaves at the start of their second year of junior high school, thirteen-year-old twins Tiki and Ronde wonder if his replacement, history teacher Mr. Wheeler, can coach the Eagles to another winning football season.” - <i>Follett</i></p>
	<p><u>Head to Head</u> by Jennifer Manuel, c2021 (IL: 4-8, RL: 4.1)</p> <p>“Emika struggles to connect with her co-captain on the soccer team named Maram.” - <i>Amazon.ca</i></p>
	<p><u>Heat</u> by Mike Lupica, c2006 (IL: 5-8, 6-9; RL: 5.6)</p> <p>“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.” - <i>Follett</i></p>
	<p><u>Horse Trouble</u> by Kristin Varner, c2021 (IL: 4-7, 5-8; RL: 3.6)</p> <p>“There's nothing Kate loves more than being around horses. But her best friend is allergic to them, so Kate has to take riding lessons without her. Kate's forced to navigate some of life's hardships--like the mean girls at the stable who tease her and her body insecurities--all on her own. To make matters worse, Kate is continually falling off her horse. To Kate, her tween years feel like one unfair punishment after another. Can she get over it all...and get back on her horse?” - <i>Pub.</i></p>



Horseback Hurdles

by Jake Maddox, c2012 (IL: 3-6; RL: 3.0)

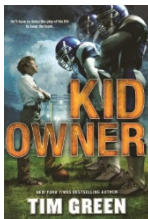
“Mia is a new volunteer at the Rocky Ridge Riding Center, and she's having some trouble adjusting. Diamond is a new horse at the center, and he's also having trouble adjusting to the new environment. Mia and Diamond must learn to work together so they can stay at the Rocky Ridge Riding Center.”
- *Follett*



Ice Magic

by Matt Christopher, c1973 (RL: 5.0)

“The twins' toy hockey game seems to be magic as it plays games identical to the real ones before they even happen.” - *Follett*



Kid Owner

by Tim Green, c2016 (IL: 4-7; RL: 5.0)

“When Ryan learns his estranged father left him the Dallas Cowboys in his will, it is all Ryan can do to keep his dad's other son from snatching the team away.” - *Pub.*



Long Shot

by Mike Lupica, c2008 (IL: 4-, RL: 5.2)

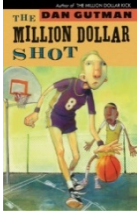




“Pedro Morales loves playing basketball, but he's more of a team guy than a star - that would be Ned Hancock, the best player in their entire town. The two boys get along well, but their friendship is threatened when Pedro decides to run against Ned for class president. The election starts to affect their team, and Pedro learns who his real friends are and the best way to work together on and off the court.” - *Pub.*



Million Dollar Race

by Matthew Ross Smith, c2022 (IL: 4-7, RL: 4.7)

“When Grant Falloon's dreams of winning the Babblemoney Games are hindered by his parents' alternative lifestyle, he creates his own internet country to get back into the competition.” - *Pub.*

	<p><u>The Million Dollar Shot</u> by Dan Gutman, c1997 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 4.6)</p> <p>“Eleven-year-old Eddie gets a chance to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot at the National Basketball Association finals.” - <i>Follett</i></p>
	<p><u>The Only Game</u> (<i>Home Team, Bk. 1</i>) by Mike Lupica, c2016 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 5.5)</p> <p>“Sixth grade is supposed to be the year that Jack Callahan leads his team to a record-shattering season and the Little League World Series, but after the death of his brother he loses interest in baseball and only Cassie, star of the girls' softball team, seems to understand.” - <i>Follett</i></p>
	<p><u>Out of Left Field</u> (<i>Gordon Family Saga, Bk. 3</i>) by Elle Klages, c2019 (IL: 3-7, 4-7; RL: 5.4)</p> <p>“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 <i>not</i> 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?” - <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Patina</u> (<i>Track, Bk. 2</i>) by Jason Reynolds, c2018 (IL: 5-8; RL: 4.7)</p> <p>“A newbie to the track team, Patina "Patty" Jones must learn to rely on her family and teammates as she tries to outrun her personal demons.” - <i>Follett</i></p>
	<p><u>Play Like a Girl</u> by Misty Wilson, c2022 (IL: 4-7, 5-8; RL: 4.3)</p> <p>“Debut author Misty Wilson chronicles her seventh-grade experience as the only girl on her town's football team in this empowering graphic memoir about teamwork, friendship, crushes, and touchdowns.” - <i>Follett</i></p>



Roller Girl

by Victoria Jamieson, c2015 (IL: 4-8; 5-8; RL: 3.1)

“For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she is strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school' in short, strong enough to be a roller girl.” - *Pub.*



Rugby Rookies

by Mike Levitt, c2021 (IL: 4-8; RL; 3.0)

“Maddy and her friends are a small town group determined to form a girls' junior rugby team while they navigate learning both the rules of the game and the rules set out by the school board. The adults are concerned about the girls' safety and even Maddy worries that she is too small for the rough game. But the persistence of the diverse group of girls wins the day and the book becomes a celebration of the empowerment and self-esteem young girls get from participating in sports.” - *Pub.*



Safe at Home (Comeback Kids)

by Mike Lupica, c2008 (IL: 4-7, RL: 5.6)

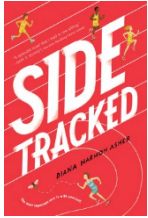

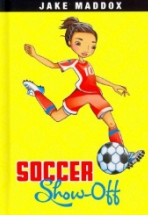

“Nick Crandall feels like he doesn't belong anywhere. He doesn't fit in with his new foster parents. They don't know the first thing about sports - and he's not exactly the model student they want him to be. It's only a matter of time until they realize he's not the right kid for them. And Nick certainly doesn't belong playing varsity baseball. He's only twelve years old! His teammates want a catcher their own age. But Nick needs to prove that he belongs - to his parents, to his team, and to himself.” - *Pub.*



Shoot-Out (Comeback Kids)

by Mike Lupica. C2018 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 5.1)

“What happens when a star player ends up on the worst team? He either learns to lose or he stops playing the game he loves. These are the choices facing Jake, who has gone from champion to last place, testing his

	<p>sportsmanship every time his soccer team gets waxed. But it's his teammate Kevin who shows Jake that being a good captain means scoring and assisting off the field as much as being the star player on it." - Pub.</p>
	<p>Sidetracked by Diana Harmon Asher, c2018 (IL: 4-7, RL: 4.4)</p> <p>"Seventh-grader Joseph Friedman is friendless and puny, with ADD to boot. He spends most of his time avoiding the class bully and hiding out in the Resource Room. But the Resource Room teacher encourages (i.e., practically forces) him to join the school cross country team, and he meets Heather, a new student who's tough and athletic and refuses to be pushed around by anybody." - Pub.</p>
	<p>Skate Park Challenge by Jake Maddox, c2007 (IL: 3-6; RL: 3.3)</p> <p>"Nick is injured skateboarding, but he quickly jumps back on the road to recovery in hopes of being ready for the big competition. With practice, Nick hopes he'll be able to skate the killer half pipes and thin rails just like the pros." - Pub.</p>
	<p>Soccer Show-Off by Jake Maddox, c2014 (IL: 3-6; RL: 3.7)</p> <p>"Gina loves playing soccer, and she can't wait to join the team at her new school. But when Gina tries to be the star of the team, her new teammates don't exactly appreciate it. Gina has to learn that teamwork is more important than winning before she can get back on the field." - Pub.</p>
	<p>Squad Struggles by Jake Maddox, c2018 (IL: 3-6; RL: 4.8)</p> <p>"Tam is on the cheerleading squad finally. Tam works hard and she has plenty of talent. She loves jumping and doing flips and dancing. But Tam's family is different than most of the other squad members' families. Her mom doesn't speak English and she has five little brothers. There's no way they can afford the cheerleading sneakers and hair ribbons the rest of the squad has. Several girls on the squad do little things that make it clear that Tam isn't welcome. Will Tam be able to stand up for herself? And if she does, will anything actually change?" - Pub.</p>



Super Slugger

by Cal Ripkin Jr., c2012 (IL: 3-7, 4-7; RL: 5.2)

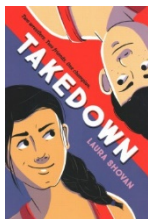
“Cody Parker is the new kid in school. He's overweight, scared and hates his new life in Dullsville, Maryland., aka Baltimore, where he's a target, okay, a *big* target, for brutal teasing. But he loves baseball. And despite his size, he plays third base like a dream. Too bad he's competing for the starting job on the Orioles of the Dulaney Babe Ruth League against budding hoodlum Dante Rizzo, who vows to squeeze Cody's head like a grape if he beats him out. Life gets even more complicated when Cody's school, York Middle, is beset by a rash of mysterious thefts, a crime wave that threatens to sideline Cody - and ruin a golden season for the Orioles. Will Cody ever succeed in getting people to see him for who he really is?” - *Pub.*



Swim Team

by Johnnie Christmas, c2022 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL; 3.7)

“Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home to the Mighty Manatees--until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help.” - *Follett*



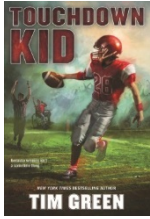
Takedown

by Laura Shovan, c2020 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL: 4.1)

“Mikayla is a wrestler; when you grow up in a house full of brothers who wrestle, it's inevitable. It's also a way to stay connected to her brothers and her dad. Some people object to having a girl on the team. But that's not stopping Mikayla. She's going to work hard, and win.

Lev is determined to make it to the state championships this year. He's used to training with his two buddies as the Fearsome Threesome; but at the beginning of sixth grade, he's paired with a new partner--a girl. This better not get in the way of his goal.

Mikayla and Lev push each other to excel and become friends. But when they face each other, only one of them can win.” - *Pub.*



Touchdown Kid

by Tim Green, c2018 (IL: 4-; RL: 4.6)

“Cory has always been passionate about football. But life for him and his single mom has been hard, making it difficult for Cory to play. And though Cory is a good kid, he's constantly surrounded by negative influences. But when the coach from an elite private school with one of the best football programs in the country recognizes his talents on the field, Cory is presented with an unbelievable opportunity. Cory knows that football could be his ticket out. But leaving to attend private school also means struggling to fit into a world where most people look at him and just see a scholarship kid from the wrong side of town. Cory knows that if he can fight hard enough-- both on and off the field--he may be able to secure a bright future that looks different from his unpromising past.” - *Pub.*



Track and Field Takedown

by Jake Maddox, c2012 (IL: 3-6; RL: 2.8)

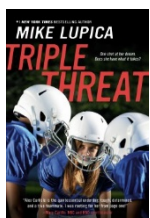
“When Ring Lake Middle School decides to host an Olympic Fest, Kyle is assigned to compete in the track and field throwing events and worries if practice will make him good, or if he will embarrass himself in front of everyone.” - *Follett*



Travel Team

by Mike Lupica, c2004 (IL: 5-8; RL: 5.3)

“After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.” - *Follett*



Triple Threat

by Mike Lupica, c2021 (RL: 5.0)

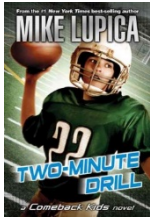
“Twelve-year-old Alex Carlisle loves football almost as much as she loves her father but when she joins the Orville Middle School football team, not all of the boys, or parents, are pleased.” - *Pub.*



The Tryout

by Christina Soontornvat, c2022 (IL: 4-7, 5-8; RL: 5.2)

“As one of the only Asian Americans in her school, Christina confronts both well-meaning ignorance and cruel racism, but in middle school fitting in is important, which is why she and her best friend Megan are both excited and nervous to try out for the popular cheerleading squad.” - *Follett*



Two-Minute Drill

by Mike Lupica, c2007 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 5.1)

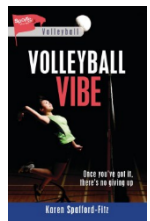
“Chris Conlan is the coolest kid in sixth grade, the golden-armed quarterback of the football team and the boy all the others look up to. Scott Parry is the new kid, the boy with the huge brain, but with feet that trip over themselves. These two boys may seem like an odd couple, but each has a secret that draws them together, and proves that the will to succeed is even more important than raw talent.” - *Pub.*



Volleyball Dreams

by Jake Maddox, c2012 (IL: 3-6; RL: 3.0)

“Ramona is very serious about beach volleyball, and even though she is frustrated with her summer league team, when she learns that a plastics company is going to build a factory in their park, she realizes that it will take the whole team to try and save their court.” - *Follett*



Volleyball Vibe

by Karen Spafford-Fitz, c2021 (IL: 4-8; RL: 3.0)

“Ria is a teen girl living in Edmonton, Alberta, whose obsession with beauty and fashion leads her mother to insist that she either get a job or join a team sport. At an age when too many girls stop competing athletically, Ria discovers her own capabilities as well as the rewards of challenging herself and connecting with others on a team.” - *Amazon.ca*



Wired (*Orca Currents*)

by Sigmund Brouwer, c2020 (IL: 4-7; RL: 3.7)

“Keegan is skiing as fast as he ever has and has a chance to finish in first place until he sees the black wire stretched between two trees in his path.”

- *Follett*