

Sports Fiction

Auch, M.J. One-Handed Catch

Lexile 710

After losing his hand in an accident in his father's butcher shop in 1946, sixth-grader Norman uses hard work and humor to learn to live with his disability and to succeed at baseball, art, and other activities.

Berman, Ron. The Kid from Courage

Lexile (none)

Bryan Berry has a chance to live his dream when he becomes a contender at the most famous junior tennis tournament in the United States.

Bledsoe, Lucy Jane. Hoop Girlz

Lexile 630

When ten-year-old River, who is crazy about basketball, is not chosen to play in the tournament set up in the town of Azalea, Oregon, she decides to organize a team of her own and accepts the help of her older brother.

Bloor, Edward. Tangerine

Lexile 680

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Blumenthal, Scott. The Road to the Majors

Lexile 840

Jimmy Hanks has always dreamed of playing Major League baseball, and when he is accepted into the Minors, he thinks his dream is finally coming true, but he soon learns that it will take more determination and hard work than he anticipated.

Brooks, Bruce. Woodsie

Lexile 910

At the start of the new ice hockey season, Woodsie alone believes that his teammates can pick themselves up after several key players defect to a rival team.

Burg, Ann E. All the Broken Pieces: a Novel in Verse

Lexile 680

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

Chabon, Michael. Summerland

Lexile 950

The ferishers, little creatures who ensure perfect weather for Summerland, recruit Ethan Feld, one of history's worst baseball players, to help them in their struggle to save Summerland, and ultimately the world, from giants, goblins, and other legendary, terrible creatures.

Clippinger, Carol. Open Court

Lexile 570

A thirteen-year-old tennis prodigy grapples with her seemingly incompatible desires to be an exceptional athlete and a normal teenager.

Collier, Kristi. Throwing Stones

Lexile 620

In 1923, in Pierre, Indiana, fourteen-year-old Andy realizes a dream when he makes the high school basketball team, but when an accident keeps him from playing, he ventures into journalism and begins to understand the meaning of sportsmanship.

Deuker, Carl. Heart of a Champion

Lexile 650

Seth faces a strain on his friendship with Jimmy, who is both a baseball champion and something of an irresponsible fool, when Jimmy is kicked off the team.

Deuker, Carl. Night Hoops

Lexile 630

While trying to prove that he is good enough to play on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

Dygaard, Thomas. Game Plan

Lexile 900

When the Barton High football coach's hospitalization forces skinny student manager Beano Hatton to take over coaching the team, he must deal with a rebellious quarterback and his own lack of confidence.

Dygaard, Thomas. Infield Hit

Lexile 860

After transferring to a new high school during his junior year, Hal tries to make friends, gain a starting position on the baseball team, and hide the fact that his dad is a famous ex-major leaguer.

Dygaard, Thomas. Outside Shooter

Lexile 810

A high school basketball star's personality problems threaten not only his own career but the success of the whole team.

Dygaard, Thomas. Rebound Caper

Lexile 760

High-school basketball player Gary Whipple, known for his mischievous pranks, creates a sensation when he switches from the boys' team to the girls' team.

Dygaard, Thomas. The Rebounder

Lexile 880

Doug Fulton, coach of the Hamilton High Panthers, is certain that transfer student Chris Patton can lead the team to a championship, but a tragic accident has made Chris decide to never play basketball again.

Dygaard, Thomas. Running Scared

Lexile 1010

A football coach whose job is on the line discovers a talented quarterback who is afraid to run.

Dygaard, Thomas. Soccer Duel

Lexile 830

A former football star finds he must share the spotlight with other players when he decides to play soccer.

Dygaard, Thomas. Winning Kicker

Lexile 910

Relates what happens when a girl place-kicker joins a champion high school football team.

Farrell, Mame. Bradley and the Billboard

Lexile 650

When thirteen-year-old Brad, a baseball hero, gets a job as a fashion model, he must come to terms with his ideas of what it is to be a real guy.

Feinstein, John. Cover-Up

Lexile 780

Two teenagers learn that every player on a professional football team—which is supposed to play in the Super Bowl—has failed their drug test and the owner has covered up the results, and now they must find a way to prove it.

Feinstein, John. Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery

Lexile 760

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

Feinstein, John. Vanishing Act

Lexile 760

Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player.

FitzGerald, Dawn. Soccer Chick Rules

Lexile 950

While trying to focus on a winning soccer season, thirteen-year-old Tess becomes involved in local politics when she learns that all sports programs at her school will be stopped unless a tax levy is passed.

Gilson, Jamie. Soccer Circus

Lexile 620

In their determination to have fun while spending the night at a motel during a soccer tournament, Hobie Hanson and his friends get caught up in a mystery buff's efforts to solve a fictitious case.

Green, Tim. Baseball Great

Lexile 840

All twelve-year-old Josh wants to do is play baseball but when his father, a minor league pitcher, signs him up for a youth championship team, Josh finds himself embroiled in a situation with potentially illegal consequences.

Green, Tim. The Big Time

Lexile 780

Agents and lawyers come knocking after Troy leads his football team, the Atlanta Falcons, to the Georgia State Championship, but his life gets complicated when one of the lawyers turns out to be the father he never knew.

Green, Tim. Football Champ

Lexile 880

Twelve-year-old Troy's uncanny gift for predicting football plays proves a powerful secret weapon for the Atlanta Falcons, but a seedy reporter with a vendetta suspects something is going on and sets out to shred the reputations of Troy and star linebacker Seth Halloway.

Green, Tim. Football Genius

Lexile 800

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

- Green, Tim. *Football Hero* Lexile 840
When twelve-year-old Ty's brother Thane is recruited out of college to play for the New York Jets, their Uncle Gus uses Ty to get insider information for his gambling ring, landing Ty and Thane in trouble with the Mafia.
- Green, Tim. *Rivals* Lexile 860
Twelve-year-old Josh looks forward to facing a true rival in the Baseball Hall of Fame tournament, but first he and his friends Jaden and Benji put themselves at great risk trying to expose the truth about a conspiracy to bribe the head umpire.
- Gutman, Dan. *They Came from Center Field* Lexile 740
Creatures from outer space land on earth and ask "Bloop" Jones and his team to teach them baseball.
- Heldring, Thatcher. *Toby Wheeler, Eighty-Grade Benchwarmer* Lexile 680
When Toby finally decides to join the middle school basketball team, he does not anticipate the changes that will occur in his relationship with his friend JJ, who is the team's star player, as well as in other areas of his life.
- Hurwitz, Johanna. *Baseball Fever* Lexile 760
Ten-year-old Ezra tries to convince his scholarly father that his baseball fever is not wasting his mind.
- Johnson, Scott. *Safe at Second* Lexile 700
Paulie Lockwood's best friend Todd Bannister is destined for the major leagues until a line drive to the head causes him to lose an eye and they both must find a new future for themselves.
- Klass, David. *Danger Zone* Lexile 850
When he joins a predominantly African-American "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome, Jimmy Doyle makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics.
- Klass, David. *Home of the Braves* Lexile 870
Eighteen-year-old Joe, captain of the soccer team, is dismayed when a hotshot player shows up from Brazil and threatens to take over both the team and the girl whom Joe hopes to date.
- Korman, Gordon. *No More Dead Dogs* Lexile 610
Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.
- Korman, Gordon. *Swindle* Lexile 710
After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the SmartPick fruit picker.
- Lord, Bette Bao. *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* Lexile 730
In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

Lupica, Mike. Heat Lexile 940
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.

Lupica, Mike. Summer Ball Lexile 910
Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.

Lupica, Mike. Travel Team Lexile 930
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.

Lynch, Chris. Gold Dust Lexile 690
In 1975, twelve-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school, hoping that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston school.

Myers, Walter Dean. Hoops Lexile 740
A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

Myers, Walter Dean. The Journal of Bidy Owens: the Negro Leagues Lexile 920
Teenager Bidy Owens' 1948 journal about working for the Birmingham Black Barons includes the games and the players, racism the team faces from New Orleans to Chicago, and his family's resistance to his becoming a professional baseball player.

Myers, Walter Dean. Me, Mop, and the Moondance Kid Lexile 640
Although adoption has taken them out of the institution where they grew up, eleven-year-old T.J. and his younger brother Moondance remain involved with their friend Mop's relentless attempts to become adopted herself and to wreak revenge on their baseball rivals, the obnoxious Eagles.

Myers, Walter Dean. The Outside Shot Lexile 770
Recruited by a small midwestern college to play basketball, a Harlem boy has many new experiences, including working with a child who needs physical therapy and dealing with corruption in college sports.

Myers, Walter Dean. Slam Lexile 750
Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

Namioka, Lensey. Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear Lexile 700
Recently arrived in Seattle from China, musically untalented Yingtao is faced with giving a violin performance to attract new students for his father when he would rather be working on friendships and playing baseball.

- Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Mayfield Crossing* Lexile 720
 When the school in Mayfield Crossing is closed, the students are sent to larger schools, where the black children encounter racial prejudice for the first time. Only baseball seems a possibility for drawing people together.
- Nixon, Joan Lowery. *Playing for Keeps* Lexile 680
 On a Caribbean cruise, sixteen-year-old Rosie meets a teenage Cuban baseball player seeking political asylum in the United States and tries to help him escape a charge of murder.
- Norman, Rick. *Fielder's Choice* Lexile 950
 Jax is a kid who loves to pitch and for a brief while he realizes his dream of playing in the pros. Then in 1941, he finds himself in the Army Air Corps and later a prisoner of war.
- Park, Barbara. *Skinnybones* Lexile 590
 Alex's active sense of humor helps him get along with the school braggart, make the most of his athletic talents, and simply get by in a hectic world.
- Peck, Robert. *Soup's Hoop* Lexile 740
 Soup's crazy plan to help his town's basketball team to victory includes constructing a musical instrument called a spitzentootle and snaring the evil Janice Riker in an unpleasant trap.
- Peet, Mal. *Keeper* Lexile 780
 Paul Faustino learns about world-famous goalkeeper, El Gato's encounter with a mystical mentor named the Keeper, in the South American rain forest and the magical lessons he learned under his tutelage that helped him become the best in the world.
- Richardson, Charisse. *The Real Lucky Charm* Lexile 570
 Thinking that luck--rather than hard work--has helped her succeed on the court and at school, ten-year-old Mia panics and turns to her twin brother for help when her lucky gold basketball goes missing from her charm bracelet.
- Ritter, John. *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* Lexile 660
 The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.
- Robinson, Sharon. *Slam Dunk!* Lexile 600
 At Harlem's Langston Hughes Middle School, eleven-year-old Elijah "Jumper" Breeze and his friends compete against Nia and her girlfriends on the basketball court, in a video dance tournament, and for a student council seat, and, meanwhile, several of the students face issues with their fathers.
- Russell, Barbara Timberlake. *Blue Lightning* Lexile 730
 When a bolt of lightning provides twelve-year-old Calvin with an out-of-body experience, he meets the spirit of the father he never knew and brings a troubled ghost named Rory back to the living world with him--only to see Rory threaten his chances of pitching in a baseball game.
- Salisbury, Graham. *Under the Blood-Red Sun* Lexile 640
 Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. Keeper Lexile 780
A timid eighth-grade girl's life changes when her best friend convinces her to try out for the soccer team.
- Slote, Alfred. Finding Buck McHenry Lexile 500
Eleven-year-old Jason, believing the school custodian Mack Henry to be Buck McHenry, a famous pitcher for the old Negro League, tries to enlist him as a coach for his Little League team by revealing his identity to the world.
- Slote, Alfred. The Trading Game Lexile 520
During a summer of baseball and baseball card trading, eleven-year-old Andy makes discoveries about his father, his grandfather, who played professional baseball, and himself.
- Stolz, Mary. Coco Grimes Lexile 770
Eleven-year-old Thomas talks his grandfather into driving all the way across Florida to meet Coco Grimes, an old man who remembers Negro League baseball, but the actual encounter proves to be bittersweet.
- Testa, Maria. Some Kind of Pride Lexile 660
Eleven-year-old, named after one of the greatest baseball players of all time, begins to question her dream of becoming a major league player after she overhears her father lamenting the fact that her talent is being wasted on a girl.
- Voigt, Cynthia. The Runner Lexile 840
As a dedicated runner, a teenage boy has always managed to distance himself from other people until the experience of coaching one of his teammates on the track team gradually helps him see the value of giving and receiving.
- Wallace, Bill. Never Say Quit Lexile 640
Angry when they are excluded from the soccer team, sixth grader Justine and the rest of the school misfits from their own team and begin training with a coach who drinks heavily but gives them a special gift.
- Weaver, Will. Farm Team Lexile 700
With his father in jail and his mother working full-time, fourteen-year-old Billy Baggs finds himself in charge of running the family farm in northern Minnesota and having to give up the thing he loves most—baseball.
- Weaver, Will. Striking Out Lexile 540
Since the death of his older brother, thirteen-year-old Billy Baggs has had a distant relationship with his father, but life on their farm in Northern Minnesota begins to change when he starts to play baseball.
- Wiles, Deborah. The Aurora County All-Stars Lexile 750
Twelve-year-old House Jackson, team captain and star pitcher of the Aurora County All-Stars, is finally ready to play again after being sidelined for a year with a broken elbow, but a standoff ensues when the team's big game is scheduled for the same day as Aurora County's two-hundredth anniversary pageant--an event directed by the very girl who caused Jackson's injury.

Yee, Lisa. Stanford Wong Flunke Big-Time

Lexile 650

After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer-school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends, and satisfy his academically demanding father.

Zirpoli, Jane. Roots in the Outfield

Lexile 560

Criticized by his baseball teammates for being afraid of the ball, Josh leaves his mother in San Francisco to live with his father, stepmother, and stepsister in Milwaukee where he becomes entangled in a mystery involving his favorite professional player.

