



## Reading Resource Library Guide: Sports

The following high interest books were selected to support an exploration of books about sports. Each book has a summary and additional information, such as book trailers and links to reviews, in a separate slide deck. Visit [this link](#) to access the books.

### Suggestions for using the text sets and slide deck:

- ▶ Choose one of the following four topics from the quarter two slide deck to explore with your class: Gratitude, Mystery, Sports, and Physical Health.
- ▶ Books in the collection span different reading levels. Also included is a separate collection, “Engaging Books for Children and Families,” which offers a selection of books that can be used with children, families, and adults.
- ▶ Explore the slides for your topic in the provided link. Each book listed in the table below has a summary and additional information with links to websites that offer supplemental material. Consider selecting one book to read aloud to learners while they read their own text.
- ▶ Share the slide deck with learners and explore the books and websites. Allow learners individual time to explore the slide deck and choose a book or excerpts from several books to read.
- ▶ Decide how you will interact with these topics and texts. This information guide has suggestions for activities for the classroom, tools for teachers, and activities for families, which are starting points for larger units or creative activities to engage with topics and texts.
- ▶ The “Activities for Families” section may be copied into another document and sent home with families for engagement suggestions while reading the books.
- ▶ Use this tool to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners!

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Knock Out</i>	K.A. Holt	610
<i>Ghost</i>	Jason Reynolds	730

<i>The Crossover</i>	Kwame Alexander	750
<i>Football Genius</i>	Tim Green	800
<i>Proud: Living My American Dream (Young Readers Edition)</i>	Ibtihaj Muhammad	960
<i>42 Is Not Just a Number: The Odyssey of Jackie Robinson, American Hero</i>	Doreen Rapport	1010
<i>Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win</i>	Rachel Ignotofsky	1030
<b>Engaging books for adults and children</b>		
<i>Gymnastics Jump</i>	C.C. Joven	220
<i>Robot and Rico: Skate Trick</i>	Anastasia Suen	240
<i>Kick It, Mo!</i>	David Adler	370
<i>Mr. Putter and Tabby Drop the Ball</i>	Cynthia Rylant and Arthur Howards	410
<i>Little Shaq Takes a Chance</i>	Shaquille O'Neal	570
<i>Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah</i>	Laurie Ann Thompson and Sean Qualls	AD 770

### Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ Begin by introducing learners to the complexities and demands that sports literature and texts can bring to a reader by using [this article](#). You may want to have learners take notes in a notebook, or create an anchor chart to display in the classroom.
- ▶ Because sports literature can be fiction and nonfiction, once you have introduced the complexities of the sports genre to learners, you may want to consider teaching (or reviewing) text structures for both fiction and nonfiction. The following reproducibles from Scholastic will help your learner “to distinguish between elements of fiction and nonfiction through a comparative study and a writing workshop”: [Traits of Fiction](#), [Traits of Nonfiction](#), [Story Map](#), [Expository Essay Rubric](#). Create a gallery walk of fiction and nonfiction examples of writing that are used as your mentor texts. As learners conduct the gallery walk, ask them to leave jots (thoughts) on Post It notes that show their thinking about the texts (if they think it is fiction or nonfiction, and why).
- ▶ Now that learners have become familiar with fiction and nonfiction text structures, looked at mentor texts, and read some sports literature of their own, encourage them to write their own sports focused story. It could be a nonfiction

“how to” guide or memoir type of writing, or it could be a fictional story around the topic of sports.

- ▶ Once learners have become familiar with the sports genre, through both fiction and nonfiction structures, you could conclude the unit by asking learners to compare a film adaptation to a book. This would work very well if you have completed a class novel or a read-aloud together. This [Venn Diagram](#) will help students organize their thoughts. Encourage learners to also think about the following in their presentation or writing:
  - Were you surprised about the setting or was it what you expected based on your reading of the book? Why or why not?
  - How was the main character similar and different in the book and movie adaptations?
  - What character changes happened in the movie, if any? Why do you think the directors chose to do it this way?
  - What was similar and different in the plot line between book and movie? Why do you think the directors chose to do it this way? Did these changes, in your opinion, work better, or worse? Explain.
  - How closely did the movie follow the book? Did the directors do a good job overall? Why, or why not? Which did you enjoy the most—the book or movie version? Why?

## Helpful Links for Teachers

### **Sports Literacy:**

This [website](#) has a variety of resources and text suggestions aimed to, “engage students in reading by connecting literature to one of the most popular extracurricular interests of middle and high school students across the country.” In [this section](#), educators will be linked to numerous suggestions for lessons across all content areas to engage readers in the world of sports through literacy content and strategies. The site also has a variety of types of text suggestions including books, podcasts, writing, and more!

### **The Players Tribune:**

[This website](#) has a large assortment of texts (poems, letters, memoirs, etc.) written by sports figures from across the sports world, both fiction and nonfiction. The site could be used in a variety of ways—to introduce learners to the structure of texts, such as a letter, or to give students memoir texts to review as they write their own sports story, letter, memoir, etc. Learners will enjoy seeing their favorite player(s) in a different way through writing.

### **Sports Feel Good Stories:**

“Here you’ll find sports stories showcasing good deeds, overcoming obstacles, and sportsmanship. Baseball, basketball, football, hockey, fantasy football, and virtually every other sport are covered.” [This website](#) could be used in a variety of ways—

offering learners mentor texts that connect text with the sports books they are already reading, analyzing quotes, etc. Regardless of the type of text you choose, all will be inspiring reads for you and your learners across the world of sports.

### Activities for Families

- ▶ Choose a book to explore from the “Engaging Books for Adults and Children” section in the table above.
- ▶ Look at the front cover with your child. Ask your child what they noticed about the front cover. Explore the pictures and text. Have your child guess at what the story may be about using the picture on the front cover. This is called “making a prediction.”
- ▶ Read and discuss the book. Make connections to the sports books you have been reading. Explore words that your child does not understand.
- ▶ Explain that sports are activities “involving physical movement and effort” and where “individuals or teams compete against each other for entertainment.” With that in mind, explore these questions with your child:
  - What did we learn today about sports?
  - What are the different types of sports people play?
  - What could be hard, and easy, about playing sports?
  - Would you like to play a sport? Which one? And why?
  - Discuss parts of the book and make connections to your daily life!

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