



## By My Brother's Side

*Tiki Barber , Robert Burleigh , Ronde Barber , Barry Root (Illustrator)*

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Tiki and Ronde were each other's best friends. Together from the start, these twins might not have been the strongest or the tallest, but they were fast and worked hard at what they loved. And they loved sports, especially football.

Then one day Tiki badly hurt his knee in a biking accident, and he was sure he'd never be able to play again. Their mother had always told them, "You are each other's best friends. Stick together, believe in yourselves, and you can do anything." They kept her words in their hearts and never gave up.

Based on the childhood of National Football League superstars Ronde and Tiki Barber, this inspiring book about the values of family, hard work, and determination is the story of what it takes to be a champion.

### By My Brother's Side Details

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Author : Tiki Barber , Robert Burleigh , Ronde Barber , Barry Root (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review By My Brother's Side for online ebook

### **Kara Smith says**

Based on the childhood of two current NFL superstar twin brothers, this book will be an instant hit for reluctant boy readers! It is told chronologically and uses a cause and effect text structure to teach the reader that trial and error is normal when accomplishing your dreams!!

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### **Sarah says**

What NFL players and twin brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber lack in writing experience, they make up for in seemingly genuine commraderie and brotherly love, which is quite refreshing. While this is story that will appeal to sports fans, it's really about team work, hard work and selflessness.

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### **Abbey Ausnehmer says**

I think this is a good learning book for children. It talks about a child getting hurt and being told he is not going to be able to play sports anymore but he never gives up. This book will teach children that if they don't give up and keep trying, anything can happen. Also I think this book is a good family book because the two brothers are very close and they are close to their mother. I think this book will inspire children and that determination and hard work can change your life.

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### **Ronster says**

Children's picture book. Professional football players, Ronde and Tiki Barber, are the subjects for this fun story. Tiki injures himself and has to sit out of sports for awhile. This story shows the connection between two brothers (twins) and the support of their mother. Use in a unit on family, friendship or positive character traits.

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### **Ryan Treaster says**

This book is based on NFL players Tiki and Ronde Barber. Although these two were not the biggest and strongest, they were taught to always work hard and be determine. In this book , it shows what can come out of hard work and determination.

Reading Level- Transitional Readers

Curricular Uses- Read aloud or independent reading

Social issues- hard work and determination lead to success

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## **Chelsie Morrison says**

*By My Brother's Side* is an inspirational story about NFL Superstars Tiki and Ronde Barber. This story provides a great message about perseverance, hard work, and most importantly, true love and dedication to family.

The story begins when Tiki and Ronde are very young. The two boys do everything together and are very athletic and adventurous. One day, Tiki and Ronde are riding bikes with friends when Tiki has a terrible accident breaking his leg. Though Tiki's doctor tells his mother that he may never play sports again, Tiki is determined to get back on his feet. Ronde is very supportive of Tiki and continues to spend all of his time with him and promising him that one day he will be able to play football again. Two weeks before football practice is to begin, Tiki's doctor removes his brace and Tiki begins practicing and strengthening his leg. Tiki and Ronde are both allowed to play for their school's football team and learn the importance of hard work and love and support for family. Though it is not stated in the story, the biographies at the end of the book mention that Ronde and Tiki both grow up to become fantastic football stars in the NFL.

I enjoyed reading this story and seeing the success of one young boy. It is inspirational to read a story, especially a true story, that portrays a character overcoming adversity to become successful, or in Tiki's case, a star. The moral of the message was wonderful and showed the importance of family, homework, hard work, and most importantly the message that you can do anything you put your mind to. Though I enjoyed the message of the story, I found much of the writing very bland and boring. There was not very much description given to details and much of the dialogue between characters felt "fake" and "forced." There was nothing I could find simply outstanding about this story: most of it was simply average. I did enjoy the illustrations that portrayed the twins well. The illustrations were not completely life like, but were enjoyable to look at. Many of the colors were muted and looked to be painted instead of computer generated or sketched.

I do not really see a way to incorporate this book into a lesson. It might be good to read as a prelude to writing personal narratives as it is a completely true story and based off of personal experiences of two "real" people. This provides a good message for young boys that are interested in sports or simply athletics.

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## **Falan Miller says**

I loved this book! This book is about a set of twins who did everything together. They played every sport together and loved playing outside. One day one of the twins suffered a terrible leg injury and was out all summer until football season. The other twin vowed he would never leave his brothers side. The brothers worked together to get the leg healed and became better than ever.

I really liked this book because of the twins. My best friends growing up were fraternal twins and they had the same connection as the twins in this book. I think it is so sweet how the brothers take care of each other and want each other to succeed.

This would be a great book to read to brothers. This would also be a good book to teach about teamwork and encouraging your teammates.

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## Shaundell says

Tiki & Ronde are best friend twin brothers who love playing sports. One summer day, a bike accident leaves Tiki with a broken leg. He watches Ronde practice ball and run all summer. The leg heals right in time for football practice in the fall. The twins work hard, have a positive attitude, and a supportive mother who tells them that they can achieve anything that they want to in life. The two brothers talk and dream of playing together, side by side, in the Super Bowl.

The story doesn't actually state it, but in the biographies of the two authors on the back cover, both boys grow up and eventually do play in the Super Bowl. Ronde plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Tiki for the New York Giants.

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## Cole says

It was a good story but it was bad when he couldn't play on the all stars baseball team.

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## Alexis Stafford says

By My Brothers Side written by Tiki and Ronde Barber, is a story of two brothers with big dreams to play in the NFL one day and make it to the superbowl. The two brothers do everything together until one day when Tiki is riding a bike uphill and ends up tumbling down the hill, hurting his leg very badly. This fall keeps him from playing and doing anything besides resting and wobbling for months. Ronde keeps encouraging his brother and ensures him that he will be right there with him through it all. Although Tiki's doctor says he may never play a sport again, he goes against all odds and plays football that next season. As the rest of you may already know if you are familiar with football, the rest is history and these two boys made their dreams come true, together!

This story does not share the whole life of Tiki and Ronde Barber but I think as a children's read this story it shares one of the most crucial accomplishments for Tiki and just shows how Ronde never left his side. Not only does this share the start of their long journey to their dream but it teaches young children to never stop believing and to not limit themselves to what others may say they can and cannot do. Children can use this story as inspiration and as a lesson to never give up not only on yourself but others who you love as well. When they named this book By My Brothers Side, they meant that quite literally because Ronde displays his dedication to staying by his brothers side and how much Tiki still supported his brother even when he was down and out.

The simplicity of this book and the connection children can make with the two young boys makes this a perfect read for elementary school children, especially those who are a fan of the game of football. I would recommend using this book when teaching students about the importance of goals, being positive, and never giving up no matter what you think your restrictions may be.

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## Hailey Kotkin says

Another underrated non-fiction book, By My Brother's Side is a must read particularly for young boys interested in football. Children in America often grow up idolizing football players, so to read the inspiring

story of Tiki and Ronde Barber would be a fantastic way to encourage whatever dreams they may have. The story is written by the two football stars and explores the complex relationship between the two brothers when they were children. Both are extremely active and competitive, but an unfortunate accident puts their relationship and dreams to the test. One of the boys becomes detained from doing all the activities he loves, and his brother is negatively affected as well. With such a close relationship, how does this affect each boy differently? How did the two brothers push past it to become some of the greatest football stars? It is a very charming book and it details the bonds of brotherhood realistically with carefully chosen dialogue and a genuine story.

The first notable thing about it are the illustrations. There are quite a few similar books that choose only to highlight the main characters, but the pictures display even the tiniest details of the environment the boys grew up in. This is effective in two ways; readers feel as if they are siblings of the two boys as well, and they realize how even two football stars used to be average kids with average lifestyles. The size of the book is rather large and gives off an energetic vibe with the two boys running with a football on the front. Much of the text seems overshadowed by the graphic pictures behind it. Some children might find this too be a little too distracting, but the text is detrimental to understanding the plot. While the pictures are stunning, they make sure not to offer too much information. Some barely show the boys and what they are going through, so the text is a vital part of the book's comprehension. Children's autobiographies, partial or not, risk being overly simplistic, but this one offers only sincerity. The language might be difficult for children ages 7 and below, but as kids begin to explore more complex vocabulary, this would be a good book to integrate them into it. The characters are not so young that older kids would be deterred from reading it but are not so old that they are hard to understand. Everything was carefully balanced so readers of all types can enjoy the true story of the now grown and successful men.

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### **Jessica Lane says**

By My Brother's Side by Tiki and Ronde Barber is about the football beginnings of future NFL stars. Tiki gets a major injury and has to sit out of sports for a while. His twin brother Ronde was always there to help him through it. And when Tiki got better, they got to play football and watch out for each other.

This is a really sweet book about brotherhood and kindness. I'm really close to my sisters, so I think it's cool to hear stories about other people being close to their siblings.

I would want to have this book in my classroom. It would definitely be a great book for appealing to boys. But it's also just a great story of watching out for someone you care about.

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### **Sheniece says**

1. Good book for little boys who aspire to be athletes to read.
  2. Teaches students to work hard at something that they like to do to become better at it and don't let people hold them back from doing whatever it is that they like to do.
  3. Promotes love and caring for ones sibling.
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### **Ashanti says**

I like that book cause when the brother broke his leg the brother helped him play f ball

## LOVE ASHANTI

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### **Beth Hall says**

This was a real hit with Meade and with his classmates when I read it aloud to them. It touches on many important themes--perseverence, brotherly love, doing your homework, overcoming adversity and football. The writing isn't the most scintillating, but oh well. The fact that it's "a true story" and the subject matter--football. That's all it takes.

Native Virginians Ronde and Tiki Barber are identical twins (who were born small as many twins are--since Meade is small, I like the fact they mention these future NFL stars were small, too) who grew up to play football for UVA, 45 minutes down the road from Meade's school (a lot of the boys' parents went there, although the boys weren't born when they played there), then went on to play in the NFL. Most of the boys seemed not to be familiar with the Barbers, and this story, which was about Tiki breaking his leg as a child, seemed to appeal to the boys. The Barbers have written three more books about their childhood which I plan to get--the parents have to read to the class once a month at lunch and those books will get me through 3 more sessions.

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