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Using the tips, truths, and stats they explore in their *New York Times* bestseller *Scorecasting*, two dads pack super sports savvy and important math and financial concepts into a fun and heartwarming first novel for kids.

New kid Mitch Sloan wants to fit in, but his nerdy love of statistics and making money isn't winning him any friends in his sports-loving town--until he finds the perfect way to attain instant popularity. But running a football betting ring at school eventually turns sour, and Mitch loses the only real friend he's made. He'll have to win her back by using his brainpower for good and helping the school football team achieve victory--*if* they'll listen to the advice of a former bookie!

The Rookie Bookie Details

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From Reader Review The Rookie Bookie for online ebook

Susie says

I really appreciate the purpose behind this book-the joining of sports and math. I hesitate to criticize anything about it, since the authors grew up in Indiana as I did. The thing that bothered me most was the idea that the football coach (nice as he was) would be so inept and would need Mitch to explain things. I would love to ask the authors why they used a few real names (Gas City, Clarksville, Louisville) and the rest fictitious (as far as I knew) The book does not have to mirror Indiana exactly, but a football game these days would never be postponed for a few weeks to build up importance.

One of my favorite things about the book was the portrayal of Mitch's parents; their "punishment" for him was near-perfect. If only other parents would follow the same idea of having a suspension being a learning experience. They seemed like especially wise parents.

Annie Payne says

This was a decent read. I think it's probably interesting enough to hold the attention of some boys, and maybe a handful of girls, but I don't think it's going to a hit with all kids.

Margaret Boling says

1/3/2017 ** We listened to this audiobook (thanks Overdrive) while my husband and I made a 6 hour drive. It was perfect: funny, well-written, and just enough business information. I think many readers will be able to find a connection - sports, math dweeb, tomboys, etc. I won't have any difficulty "selling" this for this year's Young Hoosier process.

Beth says

"Rookie Bookie" by L.Jon Wertheim is an intermediate chapter book with an AR reading level of 4.6 and an interest level of 3rd - 6th grades. This book, depending on the reading abilities of the student would work as either a read aloud book or an independent reading book.

The student Interest Inventory asked if given three wishes what would he like them to be, my student responded with "rich, fast, and popular." Mitch Sloan, the main character in the book is new and all he wants is to make money and friends so Mitch uses his aptitude for math and statistics to make both by becoming a bookie.

What if you had a very unique skill... the ability to make money by analyzing sports, would you do it? Even if it means losing the only real friend you have made in a new school... Would you still do it?

Ms. Yingling says

Mitch's family has moved from California to Illinois, where his artist parents feel that they will be more successful with their shop. Mitch hopes so-- he is quite fond of money, and backs up his affection with some realistic math skills. He applies these math skills to sports teams as well, and has on more than one occasion taken bets on games, hence the title of the book. Mitch's older brother, Kevin, is a decent football player on the high school team, but Mitch's small size and lack of athletic ability means that his skills are quite different from his brother's. Trying to fit in to his new school, Mitch investigates the sports options but realizes that the best way to connect with people is to offer them the opportunity to bet. Against the school rules? Maybe, but if you don't think about it too hard, you don't actually know this. Mitch enlists the help of football playing Jamie, who happens to be a girl but is good at sports and willing to help him collect money for his scheme. She's a little leery about the legalities, but when Mitch tells her that his family needs money, she keeps going. Mitch does make a few other friends and becomes involved in the life of his new school, but sooner or later his side business is sure to be uncovered. Luckily, he also makes himself valuable to the football coach, and the basketball coach approaches him at the end of the book, leading me to believe that there will be a book two!

Strengths: This has a lot of things going for it-- sports, a girl (even though Mitch IS. NOT. INTERESTED. IN. HER.), a unique problem at school, and some problems at home as well. I thought the voice was convincingly middle grade, even when Mitch talks about statistics and money and math. It's really, really hard to work math into a middle grade novel, and many have tried, but this was probably the most successful treatment of the topic that I've read. Hats off to Wertheim and Moskowitz for transitioning to MG fiction!

Weaknesses: Some of the math talk isn't quite as good as others, and it took a little bit of a stretch for me to believe that Mitch didn't know that taking bets was against school rules. On the other hand, we've had students at my school try to sell oregano in baggies and say that it's marijuana, so it's possible.

Shaun Lonergan says

Don't ever do what he did in school kids # Great book

Kris Patrick says

Little Brown! Get it together!

I could sell the poop out of this book to kids and teachers if it wasn't out of stock indefinitely through your distributors.

Valerie McEnroe says

Mitch Sloan loves numbers. He's a wiz with statistics. He likes talking about numbers so much that he can get annoying. It was a problem at his old school, but his family has just moved to Indiana, and so far things are good. Sure, he ranked last in the football tryouts, but he has made a friend who likes statistics just as much as him. If only he were as confident with the school bully as he is with numbers, things would be almost perfect.

Even though Mitch doesn't like playing sports, he loves watching them. Because, you know, statistics. Indiana folks love their teams. Mitch realizes right away that he can use this to his advantage. It starts off with him making a bet with another kid, and eventually grows into a gambling business. He gets rich, but all the kid gamblers just break even. As you can guess, a good scheme only lasts so long before you get busted.

I liked this book. It isn't on the same level as books by Mike Lupica or Tim Green which are serious about the game, but it still has some play by play action. It's kind of a younger, more light-hearted version of Tim Green's Football Genius in that the main character in both books are able to predict plays. This one has a more quirky, sarcastic edge to it.

Susan says

This was cute and fits well with Summer Reading's sports theme this year. Nothing exceptional, but I enjoyed the story, and I don't think I've ever read a story about juvenile gambling before (it's nice to throw a little math in there with our sports) . . . The characters were fairly well developed, and the friendship between the two protagonists was a nice departure from the friendships depicted in a lot of contemporary juvenile fiction. I thought the morality was a little heavy handed (I don't necessarily feel that Mitch's behavior was all that bad), but I understood the point.

Ben Pearson says

Great book

Viola Sung says

Funny and smart. :)

Jairo Lopez says

This book was about this kid named Mitch and he just moved from California to Illinois. Because his parents think that they will be more successful in their shop if they've move. And then he likes sports so he signs up for math in sports to make plans in football games. And he bets on stuff to get lots of money. And then he makes friends with this girl in his school. But when something goes wrong he loses his only friend and he has to get her back. I liked this book because it wasn't boring it was funny. I recommend this book to all my football squad because its all about football and its ok and because its funny .

Kassie Labrecque says

This is for your reluctant reader who LOVES sports, especially football. It is about friendship and learning tough lessons, which is a great tie-in.

Jeff says

This book is about a boy named Mitch and he just moved from California to Illinois. Kevin, Mitch's older brother is a decent football player. The Rookie Bookie is a great book because it talks about Mitch trying to fit in with the popular while being a nerd. This book is a really good book because it talks about when a boy goes to a new school. I recommend this book to people who likes to read about sports.

Rookiebookie101 says

I really loved this book it was interesting, and I couldn't put it down. I recommend it to some youngsters.
