



Game Changers Book 3: Heavy Hitters

Mike Lupica

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Mike Lupica presents the third book in his NEW YORK TIMES bestselling Game Changers series!

Ben and his friends, the Core Four Plus One, are so excited to play in their town's All-Star Baseball league. But in the first game of the season Ben gets hit by a pitch. It's never happened to him before and it shakes him up.

Another player on Ben's team, Justin, is acting really weirdly. Ben's known Justin for a while and they're friendly but he's not one of Ben's closest "boys." Justin is the team's best hitter but his behavior on and off the field is erratic.

Ben discovers that Justin's parents are getting a divorce and Justin is thinking about quitting the team. Like good teammates do, Justin helps Ben deal with his issues at bat while Ben is there for his friend while his family is struggling.

Game Changers Book 3: Heavy Hitters Details

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From Reader Review Game Changers Book 3: Heavy Hitters for online ebook

Amadou says

Ben is starting a new season of baseball. With him and the core four plus one they will do their best. But a player named Justin is having troubles. His parents are getting divorced and he is moving. He is trying to get his temper in check. But is having troubles doing so. Can Ben and the core four plus one help justin.

All in all this is okay I'd didn't love it but I didn't hate it. Ben is weird for a eleven year old he is acting like a sixteen year old. Justin is okay but he gets mad easily. But I guess that isn't his fault because his parents are getting divorced. But in the end I rate this book four out of five.

Connor Corrigan says

This book is good but sad because it talks about is parents being discovered a lot. I like how his team came back and won from a 10-0 score.

Wyatt says

Was A Good Book. Explained A Lot About How To Be A Good Friend

Vidal Ovando says

Warning,Spoilers!!!! What an awesome book.First of all, I love baseball so of course I like this story and it's pretty sad. The book is about a boy named Ben and he lives in a town called Rockwell.He loves baseball and he plays with his friends and they are in a group called "The Core Four Plus One" which consists of Coop,Sam,Shawn,Ben,and Lily as the plus one.Then,Ben stats to hang out with a kid named Justin on his baseball team,but little by little he sees Justin start to be more aggressive to his friends and Ben tries to help him out and wants to know what is going on?Will Ben help out a friend before the season is over?Rad this book to find out.

Valerie Cline says

Excellent story of 11 year old boys playing baseball. I read this because my 11 year old grandson was reading it at school. The story is heart warming and woven with many life lessons but not in a forced way.

GabrielB2020 says

It was a great book. I loved it. It was funny but if you don't know baseball that well this is not the book for you. There is a lot of good twist and turns and it is very realistic.

Nolan Habodasz says

There was a kid named Ben and he is playing baseball with his friends and before the season started they were at the baseball diamond and they said that nothing is going to interfere with there season. I rated this a 4 out of 5 because it was very good but it took a little bit to get to the climax.

Josiah says

The Game Changers trilogy concludes the way it began, with the Core Four (now the Core Four Plus One) of Ben McBain, Sam Brown, Coop Manley, Lily Wyatt, and Shawn O'Brien combining their formidable talents for a run at the league championship, this time in baseball. As outstanding as the boys proved to be in football—Ben quarterbacking the Rockwell Rams to the title on a Hail Mary touchdown pass in the waning seconds of the final game—and basketball—the Rams coming up just short of the championship contest because Sam badly sprained his ankle and missed the majority of the season, but Ben creating redemption of a sort by sinking the last shot and ending Darby's bid for an undefeated campaign—the challenge before them now is to make a similar run in baseball. The Rockwell Rams are loaded: Ben's quick bat, speed on the basepaths, and electric closer's arm; Sam's five-tool proficiency, making him a threat every moment he's on the field; Coop's capable game management and durability as catcher; Shawn's pitching and potent offense, leveraging his size and strength to dominate opposing teams. The Rams' best player of all may be Justin Bard, an offensive juggernaut who jacks home runs at a frantic rate, tape measure shots that leave everyone in awe of his preternatural hitting talent. But the season is guaranteed to present challenges as the Rams bid to replicate their football success, and some of those challenges come courtesy of rivals from previous Game Changers books. Chase Braggs of the Darby Knights is as good a base-ballist as Ben, and Robbie Burnett is an all-sport star who's going to have something say about the Rams contending for another championship. It's sure to be an unforgettable year, but for reasons even beyond the obvious.

Baseball season starts with unexpected slumps for Ben and Justin. Ben knows the reason for his own lackluster jump out of the gates: being hit by a scorching fastball from Robbie in game one has made him leery of the ball, subconsciously changing his hitting mechanics just enough to stymie his offensive production. His bat isn't completely silenced, but it's obvious not all is right with Ben's game, and he needs to correct the problem if the Rams are to keep pace. Justin's slow start is a mystery to Ben. The kid is usually a beast on the diamond, swinging the bat fearlessly in any count, an RBI machine that can't be subverted by anything but bases on balls. Now he's pressing, over-swinging, getting more frazzled with every failure at the plate, and Ben takes it on himself to find out why. The truth becomes evident after Ben bikes to Justin's house and discovers a For Sale sign in front of it. Justin's situation is worse than Ben feared: he's moving at the end of the school year, but his parents are also getting divorced. No wonder Justin has had trouble focusing on baseball.

Ben and Justin aren't tight friends, not like Ben and the other Core Four Plus One, but their baseball struggles bring them closer as they make a pact to help each other out. Isn't that how teammates demonstrate

affection? While Justin cooks up ways to alleviate Ben's nagging fear of the pitched ball, Ben grafts Justin into activities with the Core Four Plus One, expanding to become the Core Four Plus Two. Ben always appreciated Justin's contribution to the Rams in any sport, but he's coming to see there's more to him than a jock hardwired to deliver in the clutch: he's a generous friend Ben wishes he'd gotten to know better before he was about to move away. As Ben and Justin find answers for their early struggles, the Rockwell Rams heat up, their pitchers dominating opposing lineups and their own batters slashing hits like the parade around the basepaths isn't ever going to end. Ben slams the door shut in the last inning every time, an automatic closer with zippy stuff even Chase Braggs and Robbie Burnett can't get a bat on, and the Rams edge closer to the title they crave. Justin's emotional difficulties may not be behind him, however, and when the team's ship enters choppy seas, he may get tossed overboard. Can Ben and the Rams survive a season of turbulence to round out sixth grade with championships in baseball *and* football? Or will the memory of baseball season be less spectacular, sweet for the heady thrill of pursuing a major goal as close friends rather than actually achieving that goal in the end?

"If you don't take the shot...you'll never know whether it would have gone in or not."

—Ben McBain, *Heavy Hitters*, P. 192

Mike Lupica crafts some of the best sports action of the series in this concluding volume. The pace is elegant and exciting at times, rivaling the best of Lupica's novels. Ben and his goodhearted posse never fail to appreciate the privilege of playing youth sports with friends, putting on the uniform and competing for real rewards while they're young enough to do so. We're reminded repeatedly that these seasons are priceless. Our few shining moments in sports may be the most exhilarating memories we ever make. "The best plays and the best moments, they got burned into your memory, and sometimes your heart, and you knew you'd never forget them." Winning and losing are a big part of that, but so much more enters the equation. Athletics are as complicated as any area of life, emotional and searing and gratifying to the depths of our awareness. At the professional level or on a local recreational team, sports leave a lasting mark on everyone who loves to play. Ben and his friends will carry that mark after their junior sports careers are through, whether or not they go on to play at higher levels. The chemistry of team is unlike any they'll ever know. It is the greatest blessing of sports.

Heavy Hitters isn't Mike Lupica's best novel, but it fits nicely with its predecessors in the series, *Game Changers* and *Play Makers*. Ben is a bona fide multi-sport star, and it's a pleasure to read about him working his in-game magic. He may be best as a closer in baseball, a little cyclone whose dominance on the mound strikes fear in every batter who digs in against him. When coach hands Ben the ball at the bottom of the final inning, it's over. But if we're highlighting the best athlete of the trilogy, that has to be Sam Brown. Sam's the guy I want attempting the game-winning catch in football, taking the last basketball shot, or at the plate in position to knock in the winning run. Sam is the personification of clutch. Each of Ben's friends contribute vitally to their team, and it's been fun reading about them. I almost wish there were additional *Game Changers* books so we could spend more time in their company. All the best to you, members of the Core Four Plus however many. You are winners to the end.

Jeremy says

This is a good book I enjoyed reading it. Here is what it's about. Ben and his friends, the Core Four Plus One, are so excited to play in their town's All-Star Baseball league. But in the first game of the season Ben gets hit by a pitch. It's never happened to him before and it shakes him up.

Another player on Ben's team, Justin, is acting really weirdly. Ben's known Justin for a while and they're friendly but he's not one of Ben's closest friends. Justin is the team's best hitter but his behavior on and off the field is different. Ben discovers that Justin's parents are getting a divorce and Justin is thinking about quitting the team. Like good teammates do, Justin helps Ben deal with his issues at bat while Ben is there for his friend while his family is struggling.

I enjoyed this book because it was easy to understand and wasn't too confusing. I would recommend this to anyone that likes a good sports story.

Ethan says

Personal response

I really like this book because it showed that you should never give up. It shows that you don't have to give up when you're down by a lot. It's very interesting how Ben helped Justin get his mind off of what was happening in his family life so he could play baseball.

Plot

Ben lives in town, and has four main friends, the Core Four. Their team won the football championship, and in basketball Sam got hurt so they didn't do well in that. Now it was baseball time, and Ben is really excited for it. Ben's dad was the coach of the team this year. Their first game that they played, Ben got up to the plate, and the pitcher hit him in the elbow with the ball. They ended up winning that game but Ben had to be out a few days because his arm got bruised. The next game, Justin was acting weird, threw the whole game, and was mad. Ben decided to go to their house to see how he was doing, and saw that their house was for sale, and that his parents were getting a divorce. Ben couldn't believe it because their parents always got along. So that meant that Justin was moving to a new town, and that this would be his last season with them. The next game, Justin got ejected for throwing a bat, and got suspended for a game. One of the last games of the regular season, Justin got mad after the pitcher hit Ben, and started to charge the pitcher's mound. Ben stopped him in time but Justin first got suspended for the rest of the season. Ben then went to the board of the baseball league and explained to him why Justin was acting like that, and the board let Justin play thru the playoffs. They made it to the championship game but they were losing 10-0 in the 4th inning. They ended up coming back to 10-9, and Justin was up. Justin hit it super far but it got caught after the other team jumped over the fence to catch it. Justin was still happy even though they lost.

Characterization

Ben was the main character, and he wanted to help Justin out to make it the best year before he leaves. Justin was another main character who gave up on baseball in the beginning but ended up doing really good after Ben helped him. Sam was a side character who was Ben's best friend, and a really good hitter.

Recommendations

I would recommend this book to middle school, and high school students that like baseball books and crazy endings. This book barely has any hard words in it, and it's long. I would also recommend this book to people that can remember multiple characters because there are a lot of characters in this book.

Ethan Fritch says

Game Changers is a great book. It is based around an inspiring story of a boy named Ben and his baseball team. They have a chance to go to the Little League World Series. But they have to overcome different internal and external conflicts. Overall, I would give this book a 5 out of 5 stars and I suggest you read it.

Cameronpeacher says

After completing this book, I really do enjoy the style that he writes. Mike Lupica is so successful in his writing because the way he uses words and put images in your head is absolutely amazing. The reason he uses so much imagery is because the target audience is from probably 10-16 years old, which means he paints a clear illustration for the reader. This helps explain the story and just add beautiful, descriptive details that everyone appreciates.

Also, Mike Lupica tends to use a lot of similes in his books. For example, he said, "The grass was as smooth as silk." This helps him show the importance of how nice and smooth the grass is. This is just another way for him to paint an image in the reader's head.

The last literary device I found that Lupica uses were his use of hyperbole's. To start out the book, he was talking about how it was "as hot as fire" to show the struggle of playing baseball outside in summer. Another hyperbole I found was when he said, "it seemed like he threw harder than Aroldis Chapman." Which is clearly a hyperbole because Aroldis Chapman throws the hardest in the MLB.

All of these literary devices contribute to make Mike Lupica an amazing author and I 100% would recommend this book to anyone that likes a good sports book. I would not recommend this book to anyone that does not have a basic understanding of baseball. If I had to relate this book to a movie, it would be The Sandlot. Because it has a similar plot, a bunch of best friends growing up playing baseball together and enjoying life. I have read this book and Heat by Lupica and out of both of those books, this one is my favorite.

Brinley B. says

In a small town, a boy named Ben McBain and his fellow sports friends are getting all hyped up because it is almost baseball season. But some events change the course of the season and make things hard for Ben and his friends. Ben gets hit by a pitch, which really screws up how he plays. Another kid on his team is having family problems at home that affect not only Ben's life but the whole teams. Other players are thinking about quitting the team and messing the season up for everybody.

I think the theme of this book is you can still win no matter what you have been through. There are many examples to support this theme. First, the main character, Ben McBain, goes through some serious injuries that shake him to the point where his hitting is totally messed up. But Ben works hard at continuing to support his team and succeeds. Second, Justin is one of Ben's teammates. One game Justin screwed the team out of a win, so Justin had a freakout. He was constantly beating himself up and just couldn't take anymore. So when Ben hears that he is thinking of quitting the team, he makes sure that Justin knows that if he quits the team, it will be the biggest mistake of his life. Third, Justin is also having family problems at home. His parents are getting a divorce and his mother wants to move out of town with him. Even though Justin has these problems at home, he continues to be there and fight his way through the season to win.

This book wasn't very good. Although baseball and softball are my favorite sports, this book just didn't do it for me. It felt like someone who knew hardly anything about the sport quickly searched a few things up and tried to cover up the fact that the play by play writing wasn't very accurate with some real-world problems. Although it had its inspirational moments, it was a very very very predictable book. You could see what was coming from a mile away. The book just did not appeal to me in the way that I hoped it would.

Rafael R says

Ben and his 4 friends Shawn, Coop, Sam, and Justin. All play baseball, when baseball season starts Ben notices something weird about his friend Justin. He has been acting mad and frustrated when playing their baseball games. When Ben finally talks to him he tells him that his parents are getting divorced and that he is quitting the team. Ben doesn't want Justin to quit because he is one of the best hitters on the team and Ben wants him to play in the playoffs. Ben doesn't give up and decides to go talk to Justin's parents to see if he can change their minds. But it's too late they've already made the decision. Would Ben change Justin's mind from quitting or would it be too late also? I think that people who like sports books would like this book. I also like this book because it's really well written and I also like it because sports.

Steven says

With a ground ball come at you 2 out game with out. In the book Heavy Hitter by Mike Lupa. The main conflict is Ben, the main character gets hit by a pitch and after he does not hit the same. Then the lesson is to never give up.

The Heavy Hitters fits in the contemporary realistic fiction genre because this can happen in real life in a real scenario. It is in this genre because I play baseball and the main character, Ben, plays baseball too. Another example is, Jasons, one of Ben's friends, his parents get divorced. This happens to many people my age. I enjoyed this book because the author did a good job of making it so you can picture the events in the story. He uses descriptive language.. I think people who enjoy contemporary realistic fiction will like the book Heavy Hitters, because it is more realistic so you can picture it more. Children and adults of all ages would like read Heavy Hitters because it is so real. or baseball lovers this is a great book. So if you are looking for a great book pick up and read, Heavy Hitters.
