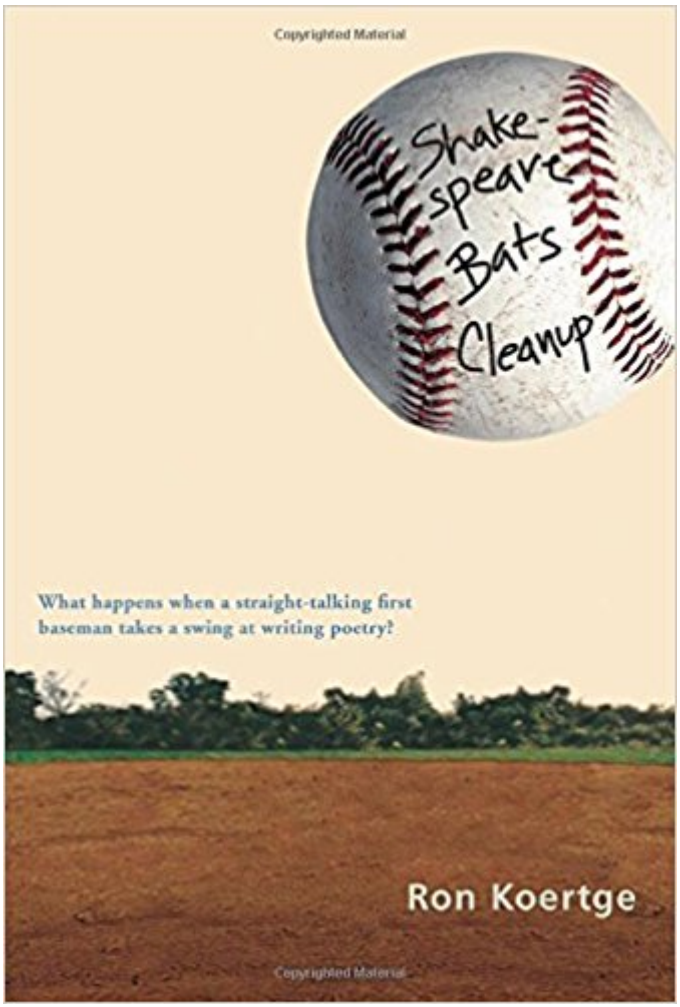
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Shakespeare Bats Cleanup



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Synopsis

"This funny and poignant novel celebrates the power of writing to help young people make sense of their lives and unlock and confront their problems." - SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (starred review)When MVP Kevin Boland gets the news that he has mono and won't be seeing a baseball field for a while, he suddenly finds himself scrawling a poem down the middle of a page in his journal. To get some help, he cops a poetry book from his dad's den - and before Kevin knows it, he's writing in verse about stuff like, Will his jock friends give up on him? What's the deal with girlfriends? Surprisingly enough, after his health improves, he keeps on writing, about the smart-talking Latina girl who thinks poets are cool, and even about his mother, whose death is a still-tender loss. Written in free verse with examples of several poetic forms slipped into the mix, including a sonnet, haiku, pastoral, and even a pantoum, this funny, poignant story by a master of dialogue is an English teacher's dream - sure to hook poetry lovers, baseball fanatics, mono recoverers, and everyone in between.

Book Information

Paperback: 116 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (February 14, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763629391

ISBN-13: 978-0763629397

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #114,659 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #146 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #233 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 6-9-Like his earlier The Brimstone Journals (Candlewick, 2001), Koertge writes this novel in highly accessible free verse. Fourteen-year-old Kevin Boland is an MVP first baseman whose whole life revolves around baseball. Diagnosed with mono, he is forced to stay at home for months while

he recuperates. Bored, Kevin borrows his father’s book of poetry and starts writing his own. At first, he just has fun imitating haiku and sonnets, but he soon begins writing insightful verse, both funny and serious, in which he records his candid observations about life in junior high, romance, his dreams of baseball stardom, and his grief over the recent death of his mother. This funny and poignant novel celebrates the power of writing to help young people make sense of their lives and unlock and confront their problems. The cover will lead readers to believe that this is about baseball, but they will quickly realize there is much, much more to this finely crafted story.Edward Sullivan, White Pine School, TNCopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7-10. Koertge has written a standout among the growing number of young adult novels told through verse. Faced with months at home because of a bout of mono, 14-year-old Kevin Boland begins to write poems, using a book from his father’s collection to guide him. He writes about such things as the recent death of his mother, his love of baseball, and his make-out sessions with girls. When he recovers, he continues his writing habit and finds a new girlfriend, experimenting with different forms of poetry along the way, including free verse, haiku, sonnets, ballads, and even a sestina. Koertge does an excellent job of creating the authentic voice of a teenage boy exclusively through poems. The poems are funny, touching, and always energetic, and they show both Kevin’s growing love for poetry and his struggles as a writer. Several of his attempts at difficult forms break apart in the middle, and some poems have rough edges, giving an extra dose of realism to the somewhat artificial concept of the book. Readers will find themselves identifying with Kevin and perhaps come to understand his attraction to poetry. Todd MorningCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book. Worked well for a student I tutored who was a reluctant reader with a high interest in baseball. I would recommend for 6-8 grades since the main character goes on a date.

I teach a verse-novel unit in my eighth-grade class, and I’m always looking out for those which appeal especially to my young men, since not all of them are ready for Beowulf. Helping them understand that poetry is as much their purview as anyone’s can be surprisingly difficult considering how much of literary culture has historically been dominated by men. This story of a teenage baseball player who gets momo and has to distance himself from his sport - and then return to it -

does a good job of making poetry a form of not-unmanly expression and also introducing different types of poems, ranging from couplets to villanelles. Hearty on boyhood topics: sports, girls, parents, peers.

My son read this book to fulfill the reading requirements for school (one poetry book per quater). He was not thrilled that he had to read a poetry book but ended up liking this one very much. Since it is written in free-verse, it reads like a story rather than a poem. My son ended up reading the follow-up on this book as well: Shakespeare Makes the Playoffs. I recommend both books for any Middle School student!

This was a really cute book to use at the end of the year with my 6/7th graders when time is limited and they are hitting check-out mode!

School read

Perfect

How about -5 review!!Totally inappropriate for middle schoolers. Topics are not suitable for pre-teen maturing kids. Inappropriate topics are glorified.

This was a clever way of telling a coming of age story.

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