

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

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**ANNE URSU** is the acclaimed author of *Breadcrumbs* and the Cronus Chronicles trilogy. A lifelong Minnesota Twins fan, Anne lives in Minneapolis with her son. Visit her at [www.anneursu.com](http://www.anneursu.com).

**JACQUELINE WOODSON** was a National Book Award finalist and has received a Newbery Honor and a Coretta Scott King Medal. She lives in Brooklyn, and you can find out more at [www.jacquelinewoodson.com](http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com).

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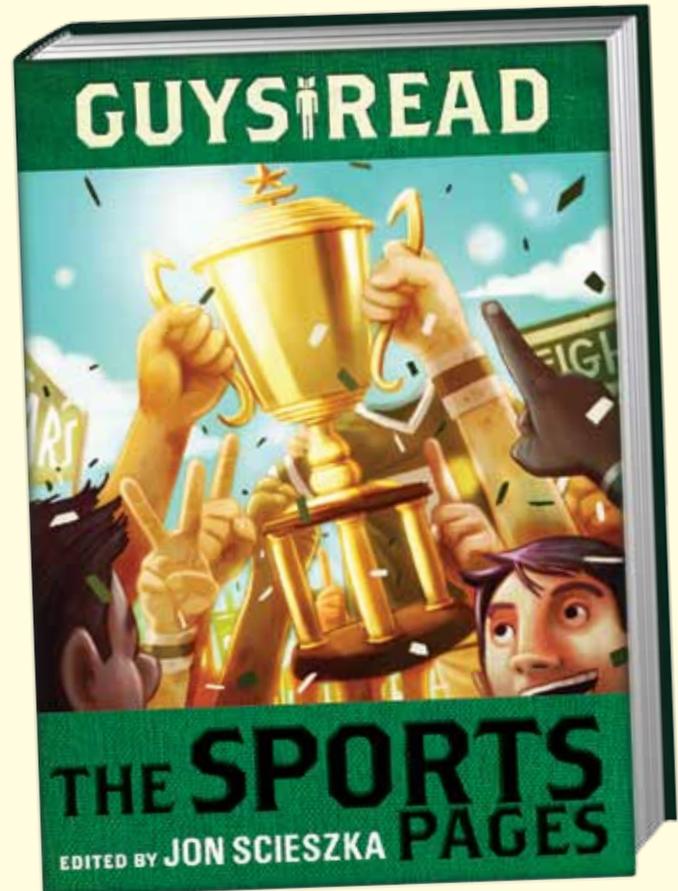
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# GUYS READ

## THE SPORTS PAGES

### DISCUSSION GUIDE



VOLUME **3**

IN THE GUYS READ LIBRARY OF GREAT READING

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Inspired by the Guys Read initiative, aimed at hooking up young guys with books and authors they love, Jon Scieszka's definitive library for boys continues with *Guys Read: The Sports Pages*. This collection of ten fiction and nonfiction stories shows that a good sports story is exactly like a good game. As Jon Scieszka says, "The good game and the good story both reveal character and truths bigger than the game or the story."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### HOW I WON THE WORLD SERIES by Dan Gutman

- What is an underdog? Are you, like Dan Gutman, inclined to root for underdogs? Why or why not?
- Why is there no moral to this story? What do you think Dan Gutman means when he says, "It's just sports. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose" (page 16)?

### FIND YOUR FIRE by Tim Green

- How do sports encourage friendship, and how can they challenge it? Do you think Jake should have continued to go easy on Bobby, or should he have started playing at full strength? Explain.
- What does the story's title, "Find Your Fire," mean? How does Jake keep his fire burning after he doesn't get the scholarship to Immaculate Heart?

### MAX SWINGS FOR THE FENCES by Anne Ursu

- Why does Max lie? Why does he keep lying? How can being the new kid at school be tough?
- Were you surprised that Molly was the team's pitcher? Why or why not? Were you surprised that she was playing Max all along? How can statements like "you throw like a girl" be insulting?

### AGAINST ALL ODDS by Dustin Brown

- Hockey is Dustin Brown's "favorite thing to do in the world" (page 82). What's yours?
- What lesson does Dustin learn when he doesn't make the New York State Select 15? How does his self-motivation allow him to grow from the Tykes level to captain of the Los Angeles Kings?



### THE DISTANCE by Jacqueline Woodson

- What qualities do you think make a good coach? How is Cashay's coach good for him?
- What gives Cashay the "desire to run it different" and go "way beyond regular" (page 116)?

### THE MEAT GRINDER by Chris Crutcher

- Why doesn't Devin Mack have faith? How is his lack of faith related to his lack of self-worth?
- How does Rich Saxon help Devin? What is Rich's act of kindness, and why does it mean so much to Devin?

### THE CHOICE by James Brown

- What does James Brown mean when he says that he was a "role player" (page 144)? How is being a great athlete more than being a great player?
- How does J. B. make the choice between UNC Chapel Hill and Harvard? How does his parents' emphasis on the importance of education influence his life choices?

### CHOKE by Joseph Bruchac

- Why does Johnny want to learn to fight? What is mixed martial arts, and why does Master Jao believe that knowing many styles is better than studying only one?
- How is Johnny a winner, regardless of the judges' decision on his fight with Tipper?

### THE TROPHY by Gordon Korman

- How is the Interboro Cup more than a symbol to the Hammers? How do the Hammers show themselves to be a team even off the court when they go in search of it?
- Why does the trophy end up forgotten after the game between the Hammers and the Raiders?

### I WILL DESTROY YOU, DEREK JETER by Chris Rylander

- How is Nate a loyal best friend to Wes—even when it's against his better judgment?
- Does Derek Jeter actually destroy Wes's life, or is something else going on? How are sports more than just games to fans?

