

MICHAEL P. SPRADLIN

Action. Drama. Humor. And things BLOW UP.

www.michaelspradlin.com

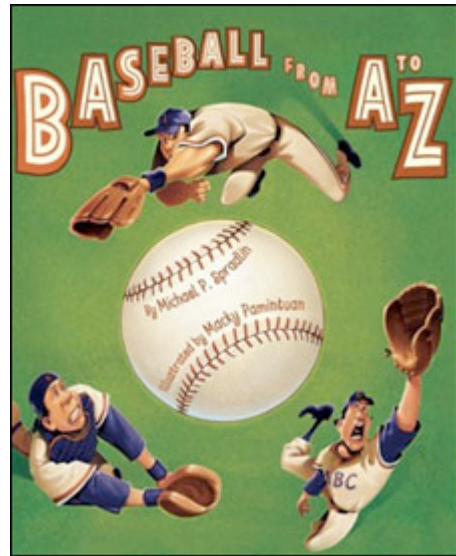
Baseball from A to Z

by Michael P. Spradlin

Illustrated by Macky Pamintuan

About the book:

Learning about baseball has never been so much fun! From a pitching Ace to a strike Zone, this energetic alphabet book covers all the bases of America's favorite pastime. Lively, action-packed illustrations will take readers right into the stands to root, root, root for the home team. So put on your favorite team Jersey and get ready for the Ballpark...because **Baseball from A to Z** is one Home Run you don't want to miss!



About the author:

Michael P. Spradlin grew up in Michigan rooting for his beloved Detroit Tigers. He collected baseball cards, listened to Tigers games on the radio, and talked his third-grade teacher into bringing her twenty-five inch Zenith console television to school so the class could watch Game Seven of the 1968 World Series. Now he writes books, still listens to games on the radio, and hopes one day the Tigers will realize the error of their ways and offer him the third-base spot he has coveted for so long. He is also the author of the Youngest Templar trilogy, the Spy Goddess series, and several other picture books. He lives with his family in Lapeer, Michigan, and can be visited online at www.michaelspradlin.com

About the illustrator:

Macky Pamintuan has illustrated several children's books, including the Flat Stanley series by Jeff Brown, the Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew series by

Carolyn Keene, and *Bedtime at the Swamp* by Krstyn Crow. He grew up rooting for the San Francisco Giants, cheering them on from the best seats in the house thanks to his uncle Allen. He lives in Sand Diego, California, with his wife, Aymone, and their wily dog, Winter. You can visit him online at www.mackyart.com.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What new words did you learn by reading ***Baseball from A to Z***?
2. Which position would you most like to play? Why?
3. Explain the difference between outfield and infield.
4. Which two letters are both types of hits? Which would you rather make?
5. Explain why quick releases by the catcher are so important.
6. Which illustration is your favorite? Why?
7. Why do you think the illustrator picked this palette of colors? Why not pastels?
8. Where should a pitch be thrown? Why?
9. What is a rookie? Have you ever been a rookie at something?
10. Why do you think no hitters are so rare?
11. Who is the umpire? Do you think his job is more important than the pitchers? Why or why not?
12. How can you become an Ace reader? What makes a good reader? What makes an ace pitcher?
13. Would you rather walk or hit a grounder? Why?
14. Do you think teams that play at home usually score more than a visiting team? Why do you think so?
15. Who wears a jersey? Does anyone else? Why? What teams are you a fan of?

PROJECTS

Math/Logical:

Draw a diagram of a baseball field and identify all the positions and any other information you learned from the book.

Writing:

Write your own ABC of your favorite sport or hobby.

Reading:

Brainstorm a list of strategies you can use when you come across a word you don't know. Then reread the story and use one of them!

Music:

Sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and raise your hand each time you hear a word from the book.

Art:

Artists use perspective to make their work come to life. They look at several angles (above, below, side) and also how close or far away to draw each figure. Go through the book again but this time note what angle each picture has and whether it is a close-up, mid-field or outfield view. Then draw your own picture of your favorite sport or hobby from at least two views.

-or-

Create your own mascot for a team. Be sure he's kid friendly!

Math:

Solve the following word problems:

1. The Tigers have hit three homeruns but the Giants just got a grand slam. How many points ahead are the Giants now?
2. If three players both score doubles how many points have they made?

3. If hot dogs cost \$5.00 a piece and there are four of you that are starving. How much will it cost for each of you to have two hot dogs?
4. If five players score singles, 2 players score doubles and one grand slam then what are the points on the board?
5. If each player got to bat four times in the game and there are nine players on the team how many times total did the team bat?

This guide was created by [Tracie Vaughn Zimmer](#), a reading specialist reading specialist and children's author, visit her website to find hundreds of guides to children's and YA books.