

HEAT
Mike Lupica
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Heat is the story of 13-year-old Michael Arroyo and his love of baseball. Born in Cuba, Michael, along with his father and brother, fled to a new life in the United States. A very talented baseball pitcher, Michael dreams of a career in the major leagues. However, after their father dies suddenly of a heart attack, the brothers must keep the fact that they live alone secret from everyone for fear that Michael will be placed in a foster home. The book delivers lots of thrills as Michael and his buddy Manny try to get their team to finals of the Little League World Series.

About The Author

Mike Lupica was born in 1952 in Nashua, New Hampshire, where he attended school until attending Boston College. He began his newspaper career with the *New York Post* in 1975, at the age of 23, covering the New York Knicks. In 1977, he became the youngest columnist ever at a New York paper with the *Daily News*, where he currently writes four syndicated columns a week.

He has also worked for New York *Newsday* and *The National*. Since 1987, Lupica has written "The Sporting Life" column for *Esquire* magazine. After co-authoring several adult sports books, he began writing sports-oriented books for children and young adults. Mike Lupica lives in New Canaan, Connecticut with his wife, Taylor, and their four children.

Activities

1. Divide the participants (or class) into teams. Assign each group a baseball team to research, including statistics, pennant victories, World Series, etc. Each team must make a pennant for their team and report on their findings.
2. On a map of the United States, use pins to locate the stadiums of the Major League Teams. Have the students match up cities with stadium names on a Printed sheet.
3. Make a timeline of the history of baseball in the U.S.
4. Find out about World Little League; if possible, go as a group to a local Little League Game.

Websites

1. <http://mlb.mlb.com/index.jsp>
This is the official site of Major League Baseball. The children can get statistics for their activities as well as pictures of their favorite players and the names of stadiums across the country. The site contains a very useful history section.
2. <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org>. This is the kid-friendly part of the Major League Baseball site. It contains Winterball Fun, including build your own stadium and baseball math. The site also contains games that the kids can play online.

3. <http://www.ballparksofbaseball.com>. This is a very useful site for locating and naming the stadiums of the major league ball clubs.
4. <http://www.baseball-almanac.com>. A well-researched site that specializes in the history of baseball. There is one downside: the site accepts commercial advertising.
5. www.littleleague.org. A comprehensive website, featuring the history of Little League, as well as the current statistics.
6. <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org> This is the official site of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. The site has interesting information about the history of baseball as well as the players who have been voted into the Hall of Fame for their outstanding contribution to the game.