



## Baseball Is . . .

*Louise Borden , Raúl Colón (Illustrations)*

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The ultimate celebration of an all-American sport, this picture book captures the joy and the history of baseball, and knocks it out of the park!

Don't wait for Opening Day to start your baseball season! Crack open *Baseball Is...*; and revel in the fun of this all-American game! Perfect for the stats-counting superfan and the brand-new little leaguer, *Baseball Is...* captures the spirit of this cherished pastime, honoring its legendary past, and eagerly anticipating the future of the sport that is "stitched into our history."

## **Baseball Is . . . Details**

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Author : Louise Borden , Raúl Colón (Illustrations)

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## **From Reader Review Baseball Is . . . for online ebook**

### **Jo Oehrlein says**

Baseball fans will love this book and the little pointers to things that they know and love (like Wrigley Field and League of their Own).

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### **Michele Knott says**

I cannot say enough about this fabulous text. You can enjoy it on so many levels. Read it for enjoyment, especially if you are a baseball fan. Take close note of the illustrations. As a Chicagoan, loved seeing Wrigley Field depicted. As a Sox fan, loved seeing Miller Park (note, bigger illustration than Wrigley, haha). Read it for the history, as Borden includes just a touch of information about the all the different leagues - Negro and Women's - information about how past presidents have impacted baseball, and she quickly nods to Roberto Clemente, Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson. Read it to learn more about the game of baseball. Use it for a mentor text for vocabulary. It's an amazing book.

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### **Elizabeth Taylor says**

I was drawn to this book because I'm a huge baseball fan and have worked in baseball for four years now. The movie Hardball puts it so perfectly, "there's something romantic about baseball." I think this quote summarizes this book quite well. Baseball is.. is a great book that shares the history of the sport. Often time students play sports without knowing any of its history. I think this would be a good book to share with the class or have kids read on their own. The book read as a bit of poetry, which I found to be a very good fit.

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### **Allison says**

I support independent bookstores. You can use this link to find one near you: <http://www.indiebound.org>

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### **Kim says**

FANTASTIC! Borden is clearly a fan.

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### **Kellee says**

Full review at: <http://www.unleashingreaders.com/?p=3118>

My Review: I am a huge baseball fan, have been for over 24 years now, so I am a sucker for baseball books.

This one is special though. It captures the beauty of the baseball stadiums around the country, the intricacies of the sport, and the amazing history that baseball holds. I also love the choice of telling baseball's story in verse. It made it rhythmic like the sport.

Teachers' Tools for Navigation: This book is a wonderful mentor text for free verse. The poetry is very rhythmic, but has no rhyme. The book also has some amazing vocabulary: craftsman, poise, spectators, finesse, etc. It captures the sport through imagery: "the crack of the bat," "slow stride of the manager," "groans or boos," etc.

On top of the poetic aspects of the book, you can learn so much about baseball and history from the book. It discusses greats like Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson. Also talks about the Negro and Women's Leagues. All parts of history in general, not just baseball.

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### **Kristen says**

While we have this shelved with the picture books, I think it'd be great as a writing prompt for sharing information. Borden's book reads a bit like a long poem, all swirling around the repetition of "baseball is". Lots of good information along with great sensory details, and Raul Colon's art never ceases to amaze.

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### **Megan says**

I LOVED this book about baseball. After all, what epitomizes summer better than baseball. Louise Borden eloquently tells the reader what baseball is, while fitting in many historical details. She shows the reader that baseball is as American as apple pie and that it is an important part of our landscape. I can't wait to share this with my 5th graders!

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### **Margie says**

Baseball (or softball) games are commonplace in our neighborhoods with skill levels as varied as our ages and sizes. We all play to win, even if we know we will probably lose. Our love of the sport is like a fever. Attending a major league game is a valued rite of passage. With eloquence in words and pictures, *Baseball Is...* (Margaret K. McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division) written by Louise Borden with illustrations by Raul Colon brings back memories of every game ever watched or played.

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My full review: <http://bit.ly/1mnABsC>

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### **Linda says**

For those baseball lovers, this is almost poetry, the words "baseball is" defining every single lovable moment

of our national sport, the players, the fields, the umpires, home plate, the pitcher's mound and of course those famous players of long ago, and those in the All-Star game, coming soon next month. There is a part of all of us that is baseball, and the story by Louise Borden includes the fans and those children who start playing and dreaming while very young. And Colón's illustrations, while colorful, are nostalgic in style, and filled with action in the baseball he shares. Just take a look at the cover, such excitement, like baseball!

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### **Pam Page says**

This book captures the feeling of being at a baseball game with all of the traditions that go along with this great sport! Lots of baseball vocabulary inserted throughout (how can you talk about baseball without the lingo?) and wonderful illustrations that provide a soft, vintage feel. I did not know that FDR sent a signal to light the first night game in Cincinnati! Be sure to read "A Note to the Reader" at the end. Perfect to read aloud at the start of baseball season!

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### **Jessie says**

This is really about love of baseball, and in that sense it's a delight. It very much includes fans, which I appreciated.

Some sections of this seem like they'd be pretty confusing for a kid who wasn't familiar with baseball. You don't have to *know* the different types of pitches or what a squeeze play is, but a lot of terminology comes up without explanation. Having heard the terms before helps.

It focuses a lot on baseball as an American game, which is far less true than it used to be. Colon did a good job with the players in the illustrations, though.

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### **Rosa Cline says**

This is more of a poetry picture book that regardless of if you are a hard core baseball fan or just a child who throws a ball with your catchers mitt every now and then. This book will stir emotions within you. Very well written along with great illustrations.

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### **Frances says**

Admittedly, I am a big baseball fan; but this children's book really struck a chord with me. The author writes: "Oh, the bright happiness of cheering a team on,  
of sitting side by side,  
of standing hand in hand  
with those who share with you  
their own special love  
for this team,  
for that player,

who recall their own memories of other innings,"

I got a bit chocked up; each page (illustrated beautifully) adds to the words that speak to the heart of baseball.

A great book to share with little kids and grown-up kids.

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### **Holly Mueller says**

Take me out to the ball game! I'm not even a baseball fan, and I loved this book. With beautiful imagery and vivid sensory details, this book takes you inside the experience of baseball with joy and excitement. With tributes to baseball greats, the atmosphere of the ball park, and baseball's rituals, Borden creates a love letter to the great American game. The illustrations are beautiful, the word choice and design perfect. This book will be loved in my classroom. I'm going to wait to read it to my students on the Reds' opening day this year - March 31st.

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