



The Brave

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Sonny's been an outsider all his life. He has never fit into either world: the Moscondagas on the Reservation see him as white; whites see him as Indian. So far, Sonny's managed to harness his anger -- what he calls "the monster" -- in the boxing ring. But Sonny wants out of the Res. He's headed for New York City, where nobody can tell him what to do.

Sonny doesn't count on stepping into the middle of a drug war when he gets there -- or on tangling with a tough Harlem boxer-turned-cop named Alfred Brooks. Brooks seems to think that Sonny's got the talent to make it to the top -- to be a contender. But first Sonny's got to learn to be smart, take control of his life, and beat the monster. Only it isn't as easy as it sounds....

The Brave Details

Date : Published March 4th 2003 by HarperCollins (first published 1991)

ISBN : 9780064470797

Author : Robert Lipsyte

Format : Paperback 240 pages

Genre : Academic, School, Sports and Games, Sports, Fiction, Young Adult, Realistic Fiction

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From Reader Review The Brave for online ebook

Marcus says

The Brave is a good book, but it wasn't what I expected. Some of the scenes in the book are not needed, and the characters voice is not that much included in the book. The good part of this book is the details they use for the action and adventurous parts. For example, Sonny Bear(the main character) was training for a big fight, so the author used good details on how he trained and what methods he used for boxing. Overall, for me, this book deserves a 3/5 star rating. I recommend this book to kids ages 13-15.

Diana says

This is a teen novel that is perfect for middle school or even 9th grade students. It has good opportunities to discuss literary elements along with discussing and following the interesting and engaging plot. Some mention of drugs, sex, and violence, but nothing so bad that I wouldn't teach it.

Levi says

I liked it. It isn't super complex but it has some really good insights into the boxing world. It has some neat Native American flavor mixed with big city life. This is not the first book in the set so I would read The Contender first. (if im not mistaken)It is a bit short if you are a fast reader you may want to pick up the whole series. This would be a good book for a sports fan type fiction reader.

Brandon says

I liked this book and I thought it was very good. I would recommend reading it. It was a realistic fiction which is a genre I have read for a while and I tend to like it 50/50 so I am always open to reading a realistic fiction.

Logan says

I think this book started off pretty exciting, it caught my attention early on. I like how the author explains what Sonny is doing while he is fighting and how he captures the moment. You can clearly see what is going on in Sonny's life through out the book. One thing I like about the book is when Sonny is fighting and Lipsyte explains not only what he's doing but what he is also thinking and how he is controlling himself. Overall it was a pretty good book.

Abdirashid Jama says

This one I remember more distinctly likely because after the Contender I developed a relationship with the author work. Ah it was quite interesting knowing nothing about the boxing world its makes a lot more sense in hindsight!

Bailey Balistreire says

Some of the main characters in this book are Sonny, Jake, Martin, and Jessie. Sonny is the main character. Sonny is a Native American and he loves boxing, but at the beginning of the book Sonny was boxing and the guy he was boxing was white and all of the spectators didn't really like Sonny and his Native Nation. The referee told Sonny that if he did any kicking or any kind of tricks to win he will be disqualified for the whole year but the other guy got to do any move that he wanted. Right after the bell rang saying round 2 was over, the other boxer said something to Sonny and so Sonny ran over to him and punched the referee in the face and the other boxer got knocked out.

Jake, which is Sonny's trainer, ran into the boxing ring and grabbed him and grabbed all of Sonny's stuff and ran to the truck. After Sonny and Jake get back to the reservation, they were stopped at a stop sign and Sonny was sick of being treated like crap so he ran out of the truck and ran away and when he gets to the next town he met Martin. Martin takes him to his house and they became friends. Martin takes him over by one of his friends and her name is Jessie.

Jessie lets Sonny stay at her house and a few weeks later they start dating. Sonny gets Jessie pregnant and he tries finding a job, but nobody will give him one. Jesse goes back to the reservation and asks Jake if he will help him out. At first Jake said no, but then Sonny tells Jake the reason why he needs to get back into boxing. Sonny needs the money to help support his unborn child. Every time Sonny wins he gets \$1,000 and if he makes it to the last match and wins he would get \$25,000. Sonny fights well and gets to go to the last match and he takes a beating. After the 3rd round he gets this feeling in his heart that if he doesn't win the match he wouldn't be a good father and he ends up knocking the guy out with 3 seconds left on the clock. Sonny overcame many obstacles in his life and wants to be a good father.

This book would be appropriate for males in the 13-17 age group.

Ryk Stanton says

As much as I love *_The Contender_*, the first book in this "series" of boxing novels, I am disappointed by this one. This book was written 24 years after the original, and Lipsyte decided to stick with that time frame. So Alfred Brooks is 20 years older than in the first book, and now he is a policeman, and he interacts with a young Native American who has a great left hook and who has gotten mixed up with some bad people upon arrival in New York. Alfred serves as an inspiration to this young man and gets him some proper training and competing in the amateur boxing circles and ... aw, who cares?

Alfred is irrelevant in this book, as is Henry Johnson (who now conveniently runs Donatelli's Gym) and Bill Witherspoon (whose overweight owlish son is forced to train Sonny Bear). We get an update on James (who cleaned up, served with Alfred in Vietnam, and then was hooked on heroin again when he returned from his

tour) but no one else, and the simple truth is that the book would be better without any of them. Sonny is supposedly inspired by Alfred, but that relationship is never allowed to grow, and the end of the book is just plain lazy: Alfred is shot by the bad guy from the beginning of the book who was trying to run Sonny, Sonny is banned from the amateur circuit because he had been paid to box in the past, a few other things that are just rushed one-two-three at us -- all leading to another book in the series.

Not believable, stereotypical, half-finished ... I am going to read the other two books in the series, but I am not optimistic. Too bad.

Tara Schuhmacher says

I have students who devoured The Contender and asked me if I could them each a copy of The Brave for them to read for their literature circle. (Kids asking for books is one of the greatest joys for this English teacher.)

So, I read this book too. It was for the most part just as fast-paced, easy to devour, as the original. Also, the main character is Native American, as are my students, which was a nice surprise.

My bet is they will enjoy this book too, I did. I will be finishing the series.

Melinda says

AMAZING! This was a sweet book. It was well-written and I loved the characters. The descriptions of the "monster" and Sonny's thoughts was awesome! I wish there was a sequel about Sonny.

Zarek Hoffman says

I thought it was an ok book. I didn't really like it too much but it was alright i guess. I thought it went back and forth to much with him training to box and getting beat up again the next weak. The first thing Sonny had to do was learn how to be smart,take control of his life, and beat the monster. But it isn't as easy as it sounds.

He never really fit in anywhere. He has to do a lot of training to get where he needs to be to beat the monster. He is gonna have to train everyday of the week. He is gonna have to start at his level and be pushed until he is good enough to beat the monster. That means hes gonna be doing a lot of lifting and a lot of running and a whole lot of training for boxing.

Before sonny started to train he got into a lot of bad stuff. A lot of bad stuff he was getting into involved drugs and alcohol. He grew up in a bad area where a lot of bad stuff had happened. He never really meant to get into all of this trouble and stuff but its what he got into and he really wanted to recover from it and get a real job or hobby. He wanted a good way to get money besides drugs and hustling and all this stuff.

I would recommend this book to people who like reading about people lives changing to something bad into something good. People who like reading about boxing this would be a good book for them to read because

it has a lot of action and activity going on throughout the book.

Giovanni Guillen says

The Brave by Robert Lipsyte, a nonfictional book written in 1991. A very good book about a young boy, goes by the name of sonny who is an American Indian of the Moscondagas tribe where they live on a reservation. The theme is personal victory, because Sonny wants to leave his tribe and go to New York so that he can decide what he's gonna do with his life rather than have it be decided for him.

Sonny, a boxer living on a reservation with the Moscondagas tribe wants to leave so that he can live his own life how he wants to, he decides to go to New York. Where he runs into a lot of trouble such as a drug trade and a veteran boxer that is now a cop. Sonny refuses to get into anything else besides his boxing. He wants to be a professional boxer so he goes to many boxing rings, trains everyday to reach his goal of becoming pro. Sonny makes some friends as well but he also has to put up with racism. He went with one of his friends to a local bar to grab a drink, they sit down at a table and 3 men go up to them and begin to hassle them for being there they say to the to get out, Indians don't belong there, to go back to where they came from. They tempted them on purpose because sonny gets mad and punches one of them in the face and it turns out that those men were police officers and sonny gets arrested.

I think overall this book was very good because throughout the entire story Sonny faces hurdles of people trying to discourage him, saying that boxing isn't for him, and from facing tough decisions but Sonny shows determination, and doesn't let anything change his mind about what he wants to do. And The Brave kept me entertained the whole time always something happening to sonny whether it be good or bad always kept me on my toes and it really showed me all the racism around not just against Africans but even against American Indians as well.

I think that any one that reads this book will be entertained no matter the age, this book is appropriate for any age groups. I think this book relates a lot to other books about the constant struggle for minorities in the past even today the hatred never ends and I think this is a good example of that. And I like this book because it is about a boxer that has a passion for something but everything is against him but he doesn't let that stop him from doing what he loves, I think I can relate a little to him in a way.

This book is an excellent choice and I would recommend it to any one that likes a novel that will keep them on their toes and who enjoy seeing someone get past any hurdles to reach his goal.

Edward Guillen says

A fantastic book! Quick fun read the authors descriptions were detailed enough to paint a picture but not so overdone where they talk about every blade of grass. Sonny is really a character I can root for! That's what I'm talking about! He has his flaws but they make him real. Very good book to draw in boys and young guys that wouldn't normally read books. If you enjoyed Way of the Peaceful Warrior by Dan Millman you will enjoy this as well.

Levi says

Book Review

The Brave by Robert Lipsyte

Review by Levi Garrison

This book started off learning about 17 year old Sonny Bear who fights amateur fights and just wants to leave the Res and join the Military. This book is recommended to people that like sports such as boxing and for people that have goals they want to accomplish. This books goal was to explain people that you need to not worry about everything else and keep your head up.

I had a great experience with this book. I thought it was fantastic because it really did tell a great story, but leaves some suspense in the end. I feel like Sonny was constantly finding trouble but sometimes trouble found him. This book did succeed in its goal of just getting past everything and focusing on the future. This book is recommended to sports fans and people who have goals. I would give this five stars.

David says

I didnt like this book because i thought its was boring. I thought this book was a good book until after a while it started to get boring. The things that I liked from this book was it talked about boxing and heritage of an indian boxer. I also liked the fact that the main character was a determined boxer. The things i didnt like about this story is because there wasnt enough action in, and I like stories that's more active. So I think if this story was more intersesting and more fun to read then I would of kept it.
