

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica

****Miracle on 49th Street by Mike Lupica: A Heartwarming Tale of Hope and Determination****

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica is a captivating novel that beautifully blends themes of resilience, friendship, and the magic of the holiday season. Known for his engaging storytelling and vivid characters, Mike Lupica crafts a story that not only entertains but also inspires readers of all ages. This book stands out as a remarkable holiday read, offering much more than just festive cheer—it delves into the struggles and triumphs of a young protagonist determined to make a difference.

About Miracle on 49th Street by Mike Lupica

Mike Lupica, a celebrated author and sports columnist, has a knack for writing stories that resonate deeply with young readers. In **Miracle on 49th Street**, he steps away from his usual sports-centered themes to deliver a heartwarming narrative set in the bustling streets of New York City during Christmas time. The story revolves around a young boy named Kevin, whose life takes an unexpected turn when he sets out on a mission to help a homeless woman and her daughter survive the harsh winter.

This novel combines elements of holiday magic with real-world issues such as homelessness, poverty, and the power of community support. Lupica's storytelling style is both accessible and engaging, making it a perfect read for middle-grade readers as well as adults who appreciate a meaningful holiday story.

Plot Overview and Key Themes

At its core, **miracle on 49th street by mike lupica** is about hope and the impact one person can have on the lives of others. Kevin, the protagonist, encounters a pair of homeless women in Central Park and becomes determined to help them, despite the obstacles he faces. His journey is filled with moments of kindness, courage, and unexpected friendships.

The Power of Kindness and Compassion

One of the standout themes in the book is the importance of empathy. Through Kevin's eyes, readers witness how a simple act of kindness can ignite hope. The story encourages young readers to be aware of those around them who may be struggling and to understand the value of lending a helping hand.

Overcoming Adversity

Kevin's determination to help reflects the broader theme of overcoming challenges. Whether it's battling the cold New York winter or navigating the complexities of his own life, Kevin's resilience is a lesson in perseverance. Lupica portrays the difficulties faced by homeless families with sensitivity, making the story both educational and emotionally impactful.

The Magic of the Holiday Season

While the book addresses serious topics, it also captures the enchanting spirit of Christmas. The setting on 49th Street and the festive backdrop add warmth and hope to the narrative, reminding readers that miracles—big or small—can happen when people come together.

Characters That Bring the Story to Life

Mike Lupica's character development in **miracle on 49th street by mike lupica** is one of the novel's strongest points. Each character is crafted with care, making them relatable and memorable.

Kevin: A Young Hero with a Big Heart

Kevin's character embodies youthful optimism and the drive to make a difference. His growth throughout the story—from a concerned observer to an active helper—demonstrates the impact young people can have on their communities.

The Homeless Women: Faces of Resilience

The women Kevin helps are portrayed with dignity and depth. Lupica avoids stereotypes, instead presenting their stories with nuance, which helps readers understand the complexities of homelessness.

Supporting Characters and Their Roles

From Kevin's family to the people he meets on 49th Street, the supporting cast enriches the story. Their interactions with Kevin highlight various facets of human kindness and community spirit.

Why *Miracle on 49th Street* Is a Must-Read for Young Readers

Miracle on 49th Street by Mike Lupica offers more than just a holiday tale; it serves as a valuable tool for teaching empathy, social awareness, and the importance of taking action.

Educational Value and Social Awareness

By addressing homelessness and poverty in a way that is accessible to children, the book opens the door for important conversations at home or in classrooms. It encourages readers to think critically about social issues and consider how they can contribute positively.

Engaging Writing Style

Lupica's writing is straightforward yet evocative, making it easy for middle-grade readers to connect with the story. The pacing keeps readers hooked, while the heartfelt moments resonate long after the last page.

Perfect for Holiday Reading

With its Christmas setting and hopeful message, the novel fits beautifully into holiday reading lists. It's a story that can be enjoyed year after year, reminding readers of the season's true spirit.

Tips for Parents and Educators: Making the Most of This Book

If you're considering **miracle on 49th street by mike lupica** for your child or classroom, here are some practical tips to enhance the reading experience:

- **Discuss the Themes:** After reading, engage children in conversations about homelessness, kindness, and community support. This helps deepen their understanding and empathy.
- **Encourage Reflection:** Ask kids how they might help someone in need in their own communities, fostering a sense of responsibility.
- **Combine with Activities:** Pair the book with holiday-themed service projects, such as collecting donations for shelters, to turn reading into action.

- **Use as a Writing Prompt:** Invite students to write their own stories or letters imagining a “miracle” they could create for others.

Exploring Mike Lupica’s Broader Work

While **miracle on 49th street by mike lupica** offers a unique holiday story, Mike Lupica is also well-known for his sports-themed novels for young readers. His ability to capture the hopes, struggles, and triumphs of young people shines through in all his work. Readers who enjoy this book might also appreciate titles like **Heat** and **Travel Team**, which explore themes of teamwork, perseverance, and personal growth.

Lupica’s background as a sportswriter informs his authentic voice and his skill in creating relatable, dynamic characters. Whether writing about sports or social issues, his stories resonate with honesty and heart.

Where to Find *Miracle on 49th Street* by Mike Lupica

For those interested in reading **miracle on 49th street by mike lupica**, the book is widely available in bookstores and online retailers. It can be found in hardcover, paperback, and often in digital formats such as e-books and audiobooks, making it accessible for various reading preferences.

Check your local library as well, as many libraries stock Lupica’s works year-round, especially during the holiday season. Audiobook versions can be particularly engaging for young listeners, bringing the story to life with expressive narration.

Whether you’re searching for a meaningful holiday read or a story that encourages empathy and action, **miracle on 49th street by mike lupica** offers a memorable experience. Its blend of heartfelt storytelling and real-world relevance makes it a standout choice, reminding us that even in the busiest city streets, miracles can happen when kindness leads the way.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Miracle on 49th Street' by Mike Lupica?

The main theme of 'Miracle on 49th Street' is overcoming adversity and the power of hope and determination in the face of challenges.

Who is the protagonist in 'Miracle on 49th Street' and what challenges does he face?

The protagonist is a young boy named Billy who faces the challenge of recovering from an injury that threatens his ability to play basketball, which is his passion and dream.

How does basketball play a role in 'Miracle on 49th Street'?

Basketball is central to the story as it represents Billy's passion, dreams, and the motivation that drives him to overcome his physical and emotional struggles.

What age group is 'Miracle on 49th Street' by Mike Lupica best suited for?

'Miracle on 49th Street' is best suited for middle-grade readers, typically ages 8-12, who enjoy sports stories with inspiring messages.

What message does Mike Lupica convey through 'Miracle on 49th Street'?

Mike Lupica conveys a message of resilience, hope, and the importance of never giving up, showing that miracles can happen when you believe in yourself and work hard.

Additional Resources

****Exploring "Miracle on 49th Street" by Mike Lupica: A Detailed Review****

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica is a compelling addition to the realm of middle-grade literature that blends heartwarming storytelling with themes of resilience and personal growth. Known primarily for his sports-centered narratives, Mike Lupica ventures into a more reflective and emotional territory with this novel, crafting a story that resonates with young readers navigating the complexities of family, loss, and hope.

In-depth Analysis of "Miracle on 49th Street" by Mike Lupica

Mike Lupica, an acclaimed author and sports columnist, has built a reputation for engaging young audiences with relatable characters and dynamic plots often rooted in sports. However, "Miracle on 49th Street" marks a subtle yet significant shift, emphasizing emotional depth alongside the usual energetic pace. The novel captures the experiences of a young protagonist confronting unexpected challenges while learning valuable life lessons.

Narrative and Thematic Overview

At its core, "Miracle on 49th Street" explores themes of perseverance and the power of human connection. Set against the backdrop of New York City, the title evokes a sense of place that is both iconic and vibrant, grounding the story in a recognizable urban environment. Lupica's portrayal of the city is more than just a setting; it acts as a catalyst for the unfolding events and the character's development.

The protagonist's journey involves overcoming adversity—both personal and external—which serves as a narrative vehicle for discussing broader issues relevant to middle-grade readers. Topics such as grief, responsibility, and the search for identity are woven seamlessly into the storyline, offering layers of meaning without overwhelming the audience.

Character Development and Emotional Resonance

One of the standout features of "Miracle on 49th Street" by Mike Lupica is its well-rounded character development. The main character is crafted with nuance, displaying vulnerability and strength in equal measure. Lupica's skillful characterizations invite readers to empathize deeply with the protagonist's struggles and triumphs, fostering a connection that extends beyond the pages.

Supporting characters also contribute significantly to the story's emotional texture, providing contrasting perspectives and highlighting the importance of community and support systems. This ensemble approach enriches the narrative, making it multidimensional and reflective of real-life complexities.

Writing Style and Accessibility

Lupica's writing style in this book remains accessible and engaging, with a balance of descriptive passages and brisk dialogue that keeps the momentum steady. The language is tailored to suit middle-grade readers, avoiding overly complex vocabulary while still challenging the audience to think critically about the issues presented.

The pacing is well-managed, with moments of tension and reflection interspersed to maintain reader interest. This approach ensures that while the story tackles serious themes, it remains an enjoyable and uplifting read.

Subtopics Related to "Miracle on 49th Street" by Mike Lupica

The Role of Setting in Enhancing the Story

New York City's portrayal in the book is far from a mere backdrop; it acts as a living, breathing entity influencing the narrative trajectory. 49th Street, specifically, symbolizes a place of unexpected miracles and turning points, underscoring the novel's message that hope can be found even in the most unlikely places. Lupica's ability to capture the city's energy and diversity adds authenticity and richness to the reading experience.

Comparison with Mike Lupica's Other Works

While Lupica's earlier works often focus on sports and competition, "Miracle on 49th Street" diverges by centering on emotional growth and family dynamics. This shift demonstrates his versatility as a writer, appealing to a broader audience beyond sports enthusiasts. Readers who appreciate Lupica's characteristic engaging storytelling will find this novel equally compelling, albeit with a more introspective tone.

Educational Value and Suitability for Middle-Grade Readers

The book serves as an excellent resource for educators and parents aiming to introduce topics such as empathy, resilience, and emotional intelligence to young readers. Its themes encourage discussions about coping mechanisms and the value of community support, making it a meaningful addition to school reading lists or family libraries.

Unique Features of "Miracle on 49th Street"

- **Realistic portrayal of grief and healing:** Lupica handles sensitive subjects with care, providing a realistic yet hopeful narrative arc.

- **Strong sense of place:** The detailed depiction of New York City adds depth and context that enhances the story.
- **Relatable protagonist:** The main character's emotions and challenges are portrayed authentically, fostering reader connection.
- **Balanced pacing:** The narrative maintains engagement through varied sentence structures and thoughtful scene development.
- **Broader appeal:** While aimed at middle-grade readers, the themes and storytelling style can resonate with older readers as well.

Pros and Cons of the Novel

Pros

- **Emotional depth:** The novel addresses complex feelings in an accessible way, making it a valuable read for young audiences.
- **Engaging storytelling:** Lupica's narrative style keeps readers invested in the characters and plot.
- **Positive messages:** Themes of hope and perseverance are woven throughout, offering encouragement and inspiration.
- **Vivid setting:** The New York City environment enhances the realism and atmosphere.

Cons

- **Less focus on sports:** Readers expecting Lupica's typical sports-centric stories might find this novel's focus different from his usual style.
- **Mature themes:** Some younger readers might require guidance to fully process the emotional content related to loss and recovery.

"Miracle on 49th Street" by Mike Lupica stands out as a thoughtful and moving narrative that balances the thrills of youthful adventure with poignant reflections on life's challenges. Its multifaceted approach to storytelling ensures that it not only entertains but also educates, encouraging readers to consider the power of resilience and the miracles that can emerge in the midst of hardship. For those seeking a middle-grade novel that combines relatable characters, a vivid setting, and meaningful themes, this book is a noteworthy choice.

Miracle On 49th Street By Mike Lupica

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: Miracle on 49th Street Mike Lupica, 2007-10-04 In the tradition of *About a Boy* comes a feel good sports and holiday novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Mike Lupica. Josh Cameron has it all: a World Championship ring with the Boston Celtics, an MVP award, a clean-cut image, and the adoration of millions. What he doesn't have is family. Until the day 12-year-old smartaleck Molly Parker confronts him in a parking lot and claims to be his daughter—the only daughter of Jen Parker, Josh's college sweetheart and the still the only girl he's ever loved. Trouble is, Jen Parker died last year, and now Molly has tracked down the father she never knew, the one her mother never wanted her to know about. Josh Cameron cares about two things only: himself, and basketball. The last thing this superstar wants or needs is a 12-year-old daughter. Yet this isn't just any 12-year-old. Mr. World Champion has finally met his match. “[T]his novel is . . . an enjoyable read with interesting peeks into the world of professional basketball. It will appeal to young teen sports enthusiasts as well as kids just looking for a good story.” -VOYA “Lupica delivers a winning novel, creating a realistic character in Molly. Young readers will also enjoy the look inside Josh's pampered sports-superstar world.” -Booklist “Lupica is an extraordinarily smooth writer with a great ear for witty repartee.” -Publisher's Weekly

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: Miracle on 49th Street Mike Lupica, 2007-10-04 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Heat*, *Travel Team* and *Million-Dollar Throw*. Josh Cameron is MVP of the championship Boston Celtics and a media darling with a spotless reputation. He has it all . . . including a daughter he never knew. When twelve-year-old Molly Parker arrives in his life, claiming to be his daughter, she catches him off guard. Molly says her mom, Jen, revealed his identity before losing her battle with cancer. Josh isn't so sure about this girl—she must be trying to scam him for his money. Still, there's something about Molly that reminds him so much of Jen. But as Molly gets to know the real Josh, the one the camera never sees, she starts to understand why her mother never wanted her to know her dad. Josh has room in his heart for only two things: basketball and himself. Does Molly really want this man for a father? Together, these two strangers learn that sometimes, for things to end up the way you want them to, you have to fire up a prayer at the buzzer and hope it goes in.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: **Mike Lupica** Cathleen Small, 2014-08-01 Prominent sports writer for the New York Daily News and author of adult and young adult books including *Travel Team*, *Heat*, and *Miracle on 49th Street*.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: **Lone Stars** Mike Lupica, 2018-08-21 An uplifting story about role models, football, and tackling fear set in the heart of Friday Night Lights country—from the bestselling author of *Heat*, *Travel Team*, and *Fantasy League*. Clay is a quarterback's dream. When he zips across the field, arms outstretched, waiting for the ball to sail into his hands, there's no denying him the catch. Like most Texans, Clay is never more at home than when playing football. And his coach, a former star player for the Dallas Cowboys, is just like a second father. But as the football season kicks off, Clay begins to notice some odd behavior from his coach—lapses in his memory and strange mood swings. The conclusion is painful, but obvious: Coach Cooper is showing side effects of the many concussions he sustained during his playing days. As Clay's season wears on, it becomes clear that the real victory will be to help his coach walk onto that famous star logo in the middle of Cowboys Field one last time—during a Thanksgiving day ceremony honoring him and his former Super Bowl-winning teammates. In *Lone Stars*, #1 New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica demonstrates once again that there is no children's sports novelist today who can match his ability to weave a story of vivid sports action and heartfelt emotion. A touching story that proves life is bigger than a game. Praise for *Lone Stars* Lupica has crafted another fine sports story for the middle school reader.—VOYA Young readers, no matter their level of interest in the game, will be drawn in by this touching, timely story.—Booklist There is plenty of great football action to keep the sports enthusiasts engaged, and the information about concussive injury is easily

understood and applied. This is an entertaining read that also imparts an important message.—School Library Connection

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: Shoot-Out Mike Lupica, 2018-05-08 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Heat* and *Travel Team*! What happens when a star player ends up on the worst team? He either learns to lose or he stops playing the game he loves. These are the choices facing Jake, who has gone from champion to last place, testing his sportsmanship every time his soccer team gets waxed. But it's his teammate Kevin who shows Jake that being a good captain means scoring and assisting off the field as much as being the star player on it.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: Summer Ball Mike Lupica, 2007 Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: Safe at Home Mike Lupica, 2009-09-03 From #1 New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica! Nick Crandall feels like he doesn't belong anywhere. He doesn't fit in with his new foster parents. They don't know the first thing about sports - and he's not exactly the model student they want him to be. It's only a matter of time until they realize he's not the right kid for them. And Nick certainly doesn't belong playing varsity baseball. He's only twelve years old! His teammates want a catcher their own age. But Nick needs to prove that he belongs - to his parents, to his team, and to himself.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: Fantasy League Mike Lupica, 2015-07-14 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *HEAT*, *TRAVEL TEAM* and *MILLION-DOLLAR THROW* comes a story of every football kid's dream come true. 12-year-old Charlie is a fantasy football guru. He may be just a bench warmer for his school's football team, but when it comes to knowing and loving the game, he's first-string. He even becomes a celebrity when his podcast gets noticed by a sports radio host, who plays Charlie's fantasy picks for all of Los Angeles to hear. Soon Charlie befriends the elderly owner of the L.A. Bulldogs -- a fictional NFL team -- and convinces him to take a chance on an aging quarterback. After that, watch out . . . it's press conferences and national fame as Charlie becomes a media curiosity and source of conflict for the Bulldogs general manager, whose job Charlie seems to have taken. It's all a bit much for a kid just trying to stay on top of his grades and maintain his friendship with his verbal sparring partner, Anna. Like the best Disney film in book form, like *Moneyball* for kids, *Fantasy League* is every football kid's dream scenario. "Lupica is the greatest sports writer for middle school readers." -VOYA

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: Heat Mike Lupica, 2007-03-01 The #1 Bestseller! Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year-old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources. Perfect for any Little Leaguer with dreams of making it big—as well as for fans of Mike Lupica's other New York Times bestsellers *Travel Team*, *The Big Field*, *The Underdogs*, *Million-Dollar Throw*, and *The Game Changers* series, this cheer-worthy baseball story shows that when the game knocks you down, champions stand tall.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: QB 1 Mike Lupica, 2014-09-02 From #1 New York Times bestselling author of *TRAVEL TEAM*, *HEAT*, and *MILLION-DOLLAR THROW* comes a cheer-worthy, family-friendly football novel set amid the Friday Night Lights world of Texas high school football. Jake Cullen is a freshman quarterback playing high school football in Texas, the high-pressure land of Friday Night Lights. He is also the brother of Wyatt Cullen, who quarterbacked his team to the Texas State Championship last season—not to mention the son of

former NFL quarterback and local legend, Troy Cullen. To be a Cullen in Texas is to be football royalty . . . which leaves 14-year-old Jake in a Texas-sized shadow. Being a good teammate comes naturally to Jake; being a winner and a celebrity does not. Jake may be a Cullen, and he may play quarterback, but he is not his brother or his father. He's just like every other kid: fighting for every ounce of respect, awkward around a pretty girl, in awe of his famous family, and desperate to simultaneously blend in and cast his own shadow. Inspired by the real-life Manning family of quarterbacks and set amid the football-crazy culture of Texas, QB 1 is a coming-of-age story perfect for the fan of MILLION-DOLLAR THROW and HEAT.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: *Travel Team* Mike Lupica, 2024-04-02 The #1 Bestseller! Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured. For fans of The Bad News Bears, Hoosiers, the Mighty Ducks, and Mike Lupica's other New York Times bestselling novels Heat, The Underdogs, and Million-Dollar Throw, here is a book that proves that when the game knocks you down, champions stand tall.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: *Two-minute Drill* Mike Lupica, 2007 Brainy Scott, a great kicker who otherwise struggles with football, and star quarterback Chris, who has dyslexia, team up to help each other succeed in both football and school.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: *Last Man Out* Mike Lupica, 2017-08-01 From the #1 bestselling author of Heat, Travel Team and Fantasy League comes a story of heroes, family, the thrills of skateboarding, and football. When the Brighton Bears suit up on game day, 12-year-old Tommy Gallagher is the toughest kid on the football field. And the bravest. After all, his father Patrick is a Boston firefighter--one of Boston's bravest. Tommy's dad taught him everything he knows about football--and life. Yet even Tommy isn't strong enough for what happens when the sirens ring and, for the first time, they're racing away from the fire. First man in; last man out had always been his dad's motto . . . yet he never said anything about leaving in an ambulance. Now Tommy's biggest battle has nothing to do with football. And the kid who always had such respect for risk on the gridiron finds himself drawn to it off the field. Set in New England, home of the Patriots' football dynasty, Mike Lupica shows off his trademark knack for spinning a tale that's equal parts sports action and heart. Last Man Out is a thoughtful tribute to the bravery of firefighters and the need we all have to live up to the level of our heroes. As is characteristic of Lupica's books, the sports segments, most particularly the football portions, are exceptionally well written. —VOYA In the best traditions of sports writing, this will leave readers both breathless and thoughtful. —Booklist

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: *Triple Threat* Mike Lupica, 2021-08-10 From New York Times bestselling author Mike Lupica, comes a timely story about a young girl who joins the boys football team. With Mike's signature fast-paced, heartfelt writing, he expertly explores gender inequality in football with nonstop sports action. When twelve-year-old Alex makes up her mind to join her middle school's football team, she doesn't expect it to be easy. But she also never anticipated she'd be met with scorn and derision from her exclusively male teammates. Football has always been a source of happiness for Alex. She and her single father never miss a Steelers game on TV, and Alex knows she has a talent for throwing the perfect spiral. But the guys suck the joy right out of the game for Alex--going out of their way to trip her up during tryouts, and teaming up against her just to watch her fail. Suddenly, Alex is the lowest she's ever felt. But if getting QB is worth it to her, she's going to have to fight for it.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: *Strike Zone* Mike Lupica, 2020-08-04 A timely and heartfelt follow-up to #1 New York Times bestseller Heat, about a young baseball prodigy and his immigrant family living in today's America. Twelve-year-old star Little League pitcher Nick Garcia

has a dream. Several in fact. He dreams he'll win this season's MVP and the chance to throw out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium. He dreams he'll meet his hero, Yankee's pitcher Michael Arroyo. He dreams they'll find a cure for Lupus so he sister won't have to suffer. But mostly, he dreams one day his family can stop living in fear of the government. For one kid, it's almost too much to bear. Luckily, Nick has his two best friends Ben and Diego to keep him balanced. But when Nick notices a mysterious man lurking on his street corner, he senses a threat. Suddenly, his worst fears are realized, and just when it seems there's no one they can trust, an unexpected hero emerges and changes everything. Praise for *Strike Zone*: *Lupica skillfully addresses the timely and complicated topic of living as the child of undocumented immigrants and the uncertainty facing many American families....This exceptional baseball novel delivers both lively sports action and critical subject matter. --Kirkus Reviews (starred review) --Lupica's action sequences are thrilling and fast-paced....[a] solid purchase where Mike Lupica and the Yankees are popular. --School Library Journal --As he did in *Heat*, Lupica skillfully juggles the baseball drama with the larger social issues that swirl around it, vividly putting a human face on the immigration crisis. --Booklist --*Strike Zone* brings the game of baseball to life, but moreover, it addresses immigration, a current issue in U.S. culture and politics. Teens will choose to read *Strike Zone* as a sports book but will root for Nick both on and off the field. The Garcia family's desire to become legal U.S. citizens is well woven into this fast-paced story. --VOYA

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: *No Slam Dunk* Mike Lupica, 2019-08-20 A sure-fire hit with readers who love sports. -Booklist A fast-paced, heartfelt story for basketball fans that proves being a good teammate remains the most important quality in basketball--and in life, from New York Times bestselling author Mike Lupica. Wes' father always told him that there was only one ball in basketball. That you had to know when to take it yourself and when to give it up, that finding the right balance was key. So at every practice and game, Wes tries his best to be a good basketball player and, above all, a good teammate. As the season kicks off, Wes finds that not everyone on his team has the same idea. All-star player and the Hawks' point guard, Danilo Dinero Rey seems determined to hold the spotlight and the ball, even if it means costing his team the game. If the Hawks are going to make it to the playoffs, Wes will need an assist--even if it means his most important one comes off the court. In *No Slam Dunk*, #1 New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica demonstrates once again that there is no children's sports novelist today who can match his ability to weave a story of vivid sports action and heartfelt emotion. A touching story about teamwork and family, of selfishness and generosity, *No Slam Dunk* shows that even in the face of adversity, giving your best is the surest way to victory. Praise for Mike Lupica: -Lupica is the greatest sports writer for middle school readers.--VOYA on *True Legend* -Lupica will win a Pulitzer for his sportswriting one day (he should have won it already).--The New York Times on *Heat*

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: *Defending Champ* Mike Lupica, 2022-09-13 In this follow up to *Triple Threat*, New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica takes us to the soccer field in another empowering story--now in paperback! Fresh off her football victory as QB, twelve-year-old Alex Carlisle is on cloud nine. But with football season over, Alex is ready to get back on the field on the spring for soccer. But after tryouts, with Alex back on her old team, she and her teammates find out that athletic funding has been cut in Orrville, and girls soccer is one of the first teams to go. Now, Alex knows playing soccer is about more than just healthy competition—it's about fighting for their right to play. Why should the girls team be first to get cut? So the soccer girls hatch a plan. The girls team versus the boys team; if the girls can raise enough money, they will fund their own season. But Alex soon realizes that her plan to save the girls team has consequences. Will Alex be able to figure out a way so that everyone gets the chance to play? Or will the girls be the ones left out?

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: *The Soccer Secret* Mike Lupica, 2019-01-29 The fourth book in the Zach and Zoe Mysteries--a sports-themed chapter book mystery series by New York Times bestselling author Mike Lupica. Perfect for fans of Cam Jansen! There's nothing eight-year-old twins Zach and Zoe Walker love more than playing sports and solving mysteries. And

when those two worlds collide . . . well, it doesn't get any better than that. Soccer season is underway, and though Zach and Zoe play on different travel teams, they're on the same team when it comes to solving mysteries. So when a package arrives in the mail addressed to Zach, the twins are surprised to find a soccer jersey identical to the one Zach wears for his team. But Zach's jersey is in his closet--so who does this jersey belong to and why did they send it? It's a soccer secret--and Zach and Zoe are on the case! Once again, bestselling author Mike Lupica charms his youngest readers yet with a sports-loving detective duo who can swing for the fences and catch the culprit in one fell swoop. With a recipe equal parts sports and mystery, the Zach and Zoe Mysteries break fresh ground for an author who has been called the greatest sportswriter for kids.

miracle on 49th street by mike lupica: The Football Fiasco Mike Lupica, 2018-08-21 The third installment of the Zach and Zoe Mysteries--a sports-themed chapter book mystery series by New York Times bestselling author Mike Lupica. There's nothing eight-year-old twins Zach and Zoe Walker love more than playing sports and solving mysteries. And when those two worlds collide . . . well, it doesn't get any better than that. In their third mystery, Zach and Zoe discover their recess football has been completely deflated, leaving them without a ball to play with. But who's behind it? By searching for clues around the school, Zach and Zoe uncover the truth behind the damaged ball, and learn the importance of friendship, inclusion, and being conscious of other people's feelings. Ending with a big Walker Family Thanksgiving Turkey Bowl game, The Football Fiasco is the perfect fall chapter book! In the opening installments of the Zach and Zoe Mysteries, bestselling author Mike Lupica begins a series for a new and younger audience, introducing readers to a sports-loving detective duo who can swing for the fences and catch the culprit in one fell swoop. With a recipe equal parts sports and mystery, the Zach and Zoe Mysteries break fresh ground for an author who has been called the greatest sportswriter for kids.

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