



Becoming Babe Ruth

Matt Tavares

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Matt Tavares's striking homage to one of baseball's legends offers a rare view into Babe Ruth's formative years in "the House that built Ruth."

Before he is known as the Babe, George Herman Ruth is just a boy who lives in Baltimore and gets into a lot of trouble. But when he turns seven, his father brings him to the gates of Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys, and his life is changed forever. At Saint Mary's, he's expected to study hard and follow a lot of rules. But there is one good thing about Saint Mary's: almost every day, George gets to play baseball. Here, under the watchful eye of Brother Matthias, George evolves as a player and as a man, and when he sets off into the wild world of big-league baseball, the school, the boys, and Brother Matthias are never far from his heart. With vivid illustrations and clear affection for his subject, Matt Tavares sheds light on an icon who learned early that life is what you make of it — and sends home a message about honoring the place from which you came.

Becoming Babe Ruth Details

Date : Published February 12th 2013 by Candlewick Press

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Author : Matt Tavares

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Biography, Childrens, Picture Books, Sports and Games, Sports, Nonfiction, Baseball, Juvenile

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From Reader Review *Becoming Babe Ruth* for online ebook

Jack Fuller says

I thought that this was a great book. I liked how they said from where Ruth started to when he made it all the way up to the big leagues. It was cool to learn about the background of him also.

Lauren Moses says

Being someone who naturally has a love for all sports I grew up knowing the name Babe Ruth although I did know the name I did not know all the ends and outs of his childhood life. In this book I was fascinated to find out information about how Babe grew up and the struggles he went through to become the world famous baseball player. This book would be good for more experienced readers. It is a great starter for those beginning to read chapter books. It is a short chapter book so it would warm children up to the idea of chapter books. It also provides a great way to begin reading biographies due to being of shorter less dense content. Overall I did enjoy this book it provided well written information on the life of Babe Ruth. The illustrations were also very lifelike which kept the realistic appeal of the book.

Kelly says

Becoming Babe Ruth by Matt Tavares is a nominee for the 2014-15 South Carolina Picture Book Award.

As a lifelong baseball fan, I've always been fascinated with Babe Ruth (even if he did play for the Red Sox and the Yankees). I haven't, however, really thought about what made Babe Ruth into the greatest baseball player who ever lived. At least, not until now. Matt Tavares' wonderful picture book, *Becoming Babe Ruth*, takes a look at what turned a boy into a legend.

George Herman Ruth definitely didn't start out as a success story. At the age of seven, this young trouble-maker was sent to a reform school in his hometown of Baltimore. He, along with 800 other boys, attended Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys, a strict school where they learned, worked, and learned a bit about discipline.

Saint Mary's wasn't all bad, though. It was here that George Ruth began playing baseball. With the guidance of Brother Matthias, this young man developed into a world-class baseball player, and he could do it all. He could hit, run, and pitch. And pretty soon, he attracted some notice. In 1914, George Ruth was offered a contract with the Baltimore Orioles. Shortly after he started playing, he was given the nickname Babe Ruth.

Babe Ruth didn't stay in Baltimore for long. He went on to play with the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees, but he never forgot where he came from. He knew that Saint Mary's and Brother Matthias made him the man he was, and he did everything he could to give back to them.

Becoming Babe Ruth is an inspirational story about an American legend. It shows readers young and old the importance of honoring one's past and the path taken to success. None of us gets through life alone, and remembering one's roots and those who helped us along the way is vital.

I know this book will be extremely popular with my students. (Baseball is life for many of them.) *Becoming Babe Ruth* is a welcome addition to any school, public, or classroom library. Its message transcends age and appeals to the baseball fan in all of us.

Bridget Allebach says

Title: *Becoming Babe Ruth*

Author: Matt Tavares

Genre: K-2 Biography

Theme(s): Hard Work, Perseverance

Opening line/sentence: "George Ruth lives with his parents with his baby sister in a tiny apartment above a saloon."

Brief Book Summary: Introducing George, or more commonly known, Babe, the boy who lives in Baltimore and has a bit of trouble following directions. As he grows at his new school, playing baseball everyday, he learns discipline and determination. Once he makes it to the big-leagues he does not forget about the boys and teachers who had once helped him get to what he is today.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1: On the cover portrait of this picture-book biography, George Herman Ruth's eyes twinkle so realistically, one expects the famous wink. Inside, this exceptionally engaging chronicle recounts Ruth's amazing rags-to-riches story, from his early family troubles and placement at age seven into Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys to his triumphant career with the New York Yankees. The narrative wisely telescopes much of his baseball career, citing a few professional feats, explaining the origin of his nickname, and vividly capturing his larger-than-life celebrity status, including his enormous appetite, undisciplined lifestyle, and boyish charm. But there's also an emphasis on Ruth's time at St. Mary's and the critical influence of the school's Brother Matthias. The story comes full circle, closing with Ruth's generosity to the school after a disastrous fire. Well-researched, realistic illustrations, rendered in watercolor, gouache, and pencil, depict early-twentieth-century life and Major League Baseball during Ruth's era. Equally important, the art captures Ruth's irrepressible personality and joy in playing baseball. Yes, the eyes definitely twinkle. Back matter includes a chart of statistics, author's note, and bibliography. (CLCD, Linda Perkins, Booklist)

Professional Recommendation/Review #2: (2) K-3 series. Tavares profiles the iconic George Herman "Babe" Ruth, shining a light on the flamboyant slugger's charitable side. The author-illustrator expertly conveys Ruth's charm through mixed-media illustrations--the boyish grin, the huge appetite (one humorous scene features Ruth in front of an outlandish spread at a restaurant), the love of the game he played so well. A standout sports picture-book biography. Stats are appended. Bib. (Horn Book)

Response to Two Professional Reviews: I love the mention of the back matter in the book, including stats from his days of baseball to citations allowing readers to know this was a truthful and well researched piece. His journey through life was well exhibited by from the young, foolish boy to the great, giving man he became, with the help of Brother Matthias. Both reviews mentioned the man he had become and how well it was presented throughout the biography.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: The wonderful characterization of Babe gives the reader the knowledge of his early life as a troublemaker, his time in St. Mary's growing, and then his time in the big leagues. This book's illustrations were wonderfully done, inviting the reader into the life of George. These illustration paired with the in depth detail and outsider view allows for the reader to truly understand all of George's life growing up.

Consideration of Instructional Application: Since this is a K-2 reading level, a class discussion will take place first, discussing the important moments in his life from his childhood to the MLB. After this discussion students will be given extra long paper to make a timeline of Babe Ruth's life. The students can choose to do

this in any format they choose ranging from a line with his important life events stemming out to a chart of them in order of most important to least important to shaping the man he became.

Gary Anderson says

By focusing on Babe Ruth's earliest years, Matt Tavares is able to portray the human being behind the myth and avoid getting into Ruth's bad behavior in his prodigious Yankee years. I admire the body of work Tavares is creating to enhance young baseball fans' understanding of the game's history.

Jaclyn Sibley says

Awards: Pennsylvania Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee for Grades 3-6 (2015), Comstock Read Aloud Honor Book (2014), Bluestem Book Award Nominee (2017)

Grade: 1st and 2nd

Summary: Babe Ruth wasn't always known for that name, but his real name, George Herman Ruth. he was an ordinary boy who found himself getting into misfit. He attended a school at seven years old where he got to play baseball everyday, and soon fell in love with the sport, making his way to the big league.

Review: I absolutely love this book! The full page pictures were so beautifully done. I never knew some of these things about Babe Ruth, but they were very interesting. It is a good lesson about never forgetting where you came from and the people that helped you get to where you are now.

Class uses: Students can work on fine motor skills by lacing up a paper baseball using yarn. 2. Students can create a math game using the bases and practice addition and subtraction problems.

Heather says

<http://web.mnstate.edu/cmc/ComstockHo...>

Becoming Babe Ruth written and illustrated by Matt Tavares and published by Candlewick, 2013.

Tomato-stealer, inmate, rule-breaker—not necessarily words that immediately come to mind when we think of Babe Ruth. Indeed, Babe Ruth's meteoric rise in baseball came from humble beginnings. In the first part of the 20th century, Babe was indeed a troublemaker and his parents were at their wits' ends. Although not truly an orphan, Babe found himself in a children's home with little to look forward too. Nevertheless, it was at Saint Mary's, this children's home, where Babe met Brother Matthias and was introduced to his destiny: baseball.

The watercolor and pencil illustrations combined with the baseball stats sheets had students commenting on how real and engaging the illustrations were – truly adding to the story.

Matt Tavares has a true gift for humanizing our heroes making us love them even more. As he did in *There Goes Ted Williams*, Tavares shares some less than savory truths about Babe Ruth. Children ages eight through twelve were fascinated to learn pieces of information about Babe that they had not been exposed to before. Children immediately concluded that a rough start does not necessarily mean a bad end and that one person (Brother Matthias) can make a difference in a young person's life.

From Boston, Matt Tavares is the author and illustrator of several books and illustrator only of several more. Tavares' books frequently earn starred reviews in various publications including *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and *The Horn Book*. His books have also garnered numerous awards including the Oppenheim Gold Seal, the Orbis Pictus Award, and the Parents' Choice Gold Award.

Katelyn Kindt says

When it comes to sports, especially baseball, I'm a huge fan! I find the history of it to be fascinating, like when the women played during the war, and how these men set incredible records around this all American sport. My father and brother were always huge baseball fans, collecting books and books of baseball cards, umpiring games, and playing themselves. I read this book about Babe Ruth that was incredible. Who would have known where he came from or what he went through to get to his height of his career. The biography is definitely one I will be sharing with others. It's inviting illustrations and story line will be appreciated by a baseball lover of any age!

Denese Anderson says

Beautifully illustrated book about Babe's early years and how he first started in baseball. Great lessons about rising above your circumstances, making the best of what you have, and giving back to those who helped you.

Jessica Starzyk says

I was inspired and interested in this book about Babe Ruth. I was surprised at how rebellious George was when he was a child. It is just a charming to realize that even the most revered and famous people have their imperfections. I love a book that can make our heroes seem to be a bit more down to earth.

This book is a biography.
It is written for grades k-3.

Taylor Volker says

Before he was Babe, George Herman Babe, grew up in Baltimore and got into a lot of trouble. When his dad brings him to an all boy school his life is changed forever. He is expected to study and follow all these

rules which was different then what he had done before. The only good thing about the school was baseball. Babe evolves as a player and later heads off into major league baseball. Matt sheds light on this player who we all know today. His illustrations make the book come to life. The pictures are bold but settle at the same time.

Courtney Heard says

I really enjoyed reading this book and learning more about a historical baseball icon. A lot of younger kids would be able to read this easily and learn something also from it.

Six + 1 Traits: sentence fluency, idea

DRA Level: 40

Lexile: AD810L

babyhippoface says

I learned some very interesting things about the Babe from this terrific picture book by Matt Tavares. I learned he grew up in parochial school because of his bad behavior at a very young age, and how that school remained very special to him throughout his life. Who taught him to play ball so well? That was my favorite fun fact from the book, but I'm not going to ruin the surprise here. Read this little book for yourself!

2016 Oklahoma Sequoyah Children's Book Master List

Deann says

This book is for the Haidyn to read independently. This is a primary book.

I chose this book for Haidyn because he marked he liked biographies. This is the biography of Babe Ruth. He marked the interest inventory he would like to know more about sports and history.

George Herman (Babe) Ruth is one of the most famous baseball player of all time. How did a boy who would skip school and throw tomatoes at passing wagons become a famous baseball player? But where did he come from? How did he become a famous baseball player? Where did he get his nickname "Babe Ruth"? Read the book *Becoming Babe Ruth* to find out the answers to all these questions and more!

Ivy Wesner says

Tavares, Matt. *Becoming Babe Ruth*. Scholastic, 2013. 40 p. Gr. K-3.

Babe Ruth was born George Ruth, and lived with his parents and little sister in a tiny apartment in Baltimore, Maryland. George was not a child who liked to follow the rules. He often skipped school, stole tomatoes from the vegetable stand to throw at passing wagons, and snuck into saloons to steal money from the registers. When George turned seven, his parents decided that George needed to change. George was sent to

Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys. The eight hundred boys that lived there often called themselves inmates. Every day was the same; same food, same schedule, same rules... George missed his parents, but he loved the fact that every day he could play baseball! Brother Matthias noticed George's talents in the game, and spent countless hours teaching George the game. When George was sixteen, Jack Dunn, the owner of the Baltimore Orioles arrived and watched George play. Right then, he offered him a contract! His new teammates asked where this kid came from. One replied, "He's one of Jack Dunn's new babes." This is the moment that Babe Ruth got his name. Even though George was busy practicing, he often went back to Saint Mary's to play ball with his friends. Halfway through his first season, the Orioles sold his contract to the Boston Red Sox. He led his team to win the World Series three times. Six years after receiving his first contract, he was once again sold, this time to the New York Yankees. On the morning of September 8, 1920 George receives word that a fire swept through the Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys. George was devastated and wanted to help. He sent a letter to Brother Matthias and invited fifty boys to come join him for the final two weeks of the 1920 baseball season. The boys got to travel with Babe and played a concert in the stands each night before the game. The crowd was eager to meet Babe in person and donated money to help rebuild the place where Babe learned to play the game of baseball!

Young children are inspired by those they connect with. Young Babe Ruth is someone every student can connect with in one way or another. As a boy, Babe did not like to follow directions, but he loved the game of baseball. Through his hard work and dedication, Babe fulfilled a dream that many have. Teachers can use this incredible picture book biography to not only to introduce a fun way to read biographies but also use this book for interdisciplinary subjects. Becoming Babe Ruth can be used by teachers to introduce timelines and/or take educational trips across the country (using a map, or the internet.) Teachers can talk to students about struggles that we may have and how we can overcome them. Students can use this book as a guide to write their own biographies. The students can explain, in writing, some struggles they may have encountered and how they overcame those struggles, or they can write about a dream they have and how they may overcome situations they are facing now to reach that dream.
