



# My Weird School Fast Facts: Sports

*Dan Gutman , Jim Paillot (Illustrator)*

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**Think fast with A.J. and Andrea from My Weird School!**

Did you know that the only sport that's been played on the moon is golf? Did you know that an NFL quarterback once threw a touchdown pass to himself?!

Learn more **weird-but-true sports facts** with A.J. and Andrea from Dan Gutman's bestselling My Weird School series. This all-new series of nonfiction books features hundreds of hysterical facts, plus lots of photos and illustrations.

Whether you're a kid who wants to know more about sports or just someone who is curious why Major League Baseball umpires have to wear black underwear, this is the book for you!

**With more than 12 million books sold, the My Weird School series really gets kids reading!**

## My Weird School Fast Facts: Sports Details

Date : Published June 21st 2016 by HarperCollins

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Author : Dan Gutman , Jim Paillot (Illustrator)

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# From Reader Review **My Weird School Fast Facts: Sports** for online ebook

## **Ana Paul says**

I liked the book because there are many weird facts about different sports. The one weird fact I love in the books is that, in the caveman days, the caveman was going to kill a dinosaur with a club. Then another cave man threw rocks at him with no reason. Then the first caveman saved himself with the club and that is how the baseball sport started!!! This book is really awesome.

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## **The Brothers says**

Asher (10yo) read. "Very interesting. It told me a lot of things I did not know about sports - even my favorite one: soccer! I wish Ken Jennings made a book like this."

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## **Pop Bop says**

A Fairly Amusing Mix of Sports Factoids for "My Weird School" Fans

This book reads just like one of the "My Weird School" books. Depending on how much you like that series that will probably pretty much determine how much you like this non-fiction grab bag entry. A.J. makes silly jokes, insults Andrea, and generally acts out in A.J. fashion. Andrea soldiers on, tossing the occasional zinger at A.J. but basically trying to deliver a straight story.

If your young reader knows and loves the "My Weird School" series and the A.J. and Andrea characters then this book will probably appeal. It's fact based rather than a school daze adventure, but it has all of the energy and silliness of one of the "My Weird School" books. Because of the heavy emphasis on the A.J. and Andrea interaction, if your reader doesn't know that series then the book might feel a little confused. Then again, since it's just sports facts organized by sports categories it's not like the narrators are that important.

Unlike the other book in this series, ("Geography"), there is no attempt to offer an introduction to some scientific topic. This is a collection of factoids and designed to be read like a really young reader bathroom book. The chapters include baseball, football, soccer, basketball, hockey, golf, auto racing and the Olympics and tend to focus on the fastest, longest, highest, and weirdest facts, which makes sense.

My first impression was that the book was awfully light on facts, and mostly just a Weird School variant. And at least for me the unrelentingly smartmouth A.J., (and his "dumbhead" comments), gets old pretty fast. But, as I thought about it and considered the reading audience, (second to third or fourth grade?), I came to see that this book is more clever and informative than I at first gave it credit. And weird facts may be the way to go for a younger audience. After all, most young readers are only going to have a glancing familiarity with these sports and so you have to keep the jokes and the facts pretty basic.

Sometimes the need to be silly, and the A.J. and Andrea byplay, obscures the info that's being shared, but for the most part the various bits are informative and engaging. The illustrations are simple line drawings,

(supplemented by occasional photos), but they actually work well to complement the info or to amuse the reader.

The upshot is that this book feels silly , but for a kid who likes the "My Weird School" vibe and wants to read some entertaining sports related non-fiction this seems a nice choice.

(Please note that I received a free advance will-self-destruct-in-x-days Adobe Digital copy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

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## **Raven Black says**

Even if you know a lot of sports facts you might learn a few things! Should not be used as the only reference for a report or as the only book you get information from, but is a great start to whet the appetite of any young sports fan.

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## **Shirley says**

My junior high students are going to love this book. I'm not a sports fan, but I've had a lot of fun sharing the trivia with my husband. The sign of a good book is that you want to share what you are reading with others. My edition of the book which I received in a Goodreads giveaway has both the sports and geography versions in one book. The kids will enjoy the fact that you read the sports half of the book and then turn the book over and upside down to read the geography book. I understand the books will be part of a series by Dan Gutman. His books are always popular in our school library. I will be ordering hardbound copies of all of them as they are released.

I'm a geography fan so this is what originally drew my attention to the book. What weird facts do I hope to remember from this section of the book?

Great Britain is a group of three countries. The United Kingdom is four countries including England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. (p. 43)

The bristlecone pine which is found in California is the world's oldest tree. Its location is kept secret to prevent tourists from damaging the tree. (p. 101)

"Every Chinese Citizen over eleven years old has to plant at least three trees every year." (p. 104)

I loved all of chapter six that lists geography trivia from every state and Washington, D.C. I live in Nevada and didn't know that it was the most mountainous state. (p. 120) I didn't know that Sand Mountain is called the "singing sand dune" because of weird noises caused by the grains of sand rubbing against each other. (p. 120) It's a popular spot for dune buggy racing. I wonder how many of those off-road enthusiasts have heard the sound of the dunes "singing"?

I didn't know that the capital of the United States was moved from New York City to Philadelphia and then

to its present location Washington, D.C.

The book contains great illustrations by Jim Paillot and photographs that greatly add to the pleasure of reading both the geography and sports versions of the series. I highly recommend the My Weird School Fast Facts series.

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### **Ms. Reader says**

I received this book from Goodreads First Reads in exchange for an honest review....

This is a entertaining yet wildly education book for kids (older elementary, middle school ages). I skimmed through it and found it to be very amusing and adorable. It is full of goofy pictures that will captivate kids interest. The facts are kept brief and simple, but still very kid-friendly. This is a great book for those young'uns who wants a sneak peak into their favorite athletes lives.

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### **Robin Morgan says**

I actually received a ARC [Advance Reader's Copy] for My Weird School Fast Facts about Geography through a Goodreads giveaway in return for my honest opinion.

What made this ARC particularly interesting is that it was a FLIP ARC, meaning if you turned the book over you had a second ARC. The second ARC dealt with Sports.

Unless you're truly interest in knowing facts concerning a specific topic, fact books can be extremely boring to read. This can be especially true when it comes to intended audience of readers, children between the ages of 6 – 10.

Taking two characters, A.J. and Andrea from his My Weird School Series of books Dan Gutman has written a skillfully crafted dialogue in which facts about Sports flow smoothly from one fact into another. The illustrations and photos add to the educational experience for its young readers for which I've given this book 5 STARS.

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### **Ms. Yingling says**

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

A.J. and Andrea from the My Weird School series narrate these collections of random facts. Their pictures appear before the facts they present, and the two carry on a joking back-and-forth about how boring and irrelevant the other is as they offer up tidbits of information.

27064334In Sports, the chapters are broken down into the major sports like football, baseball and basketball, with additional chapters devoted to golf and other sports. There are random things mentioned, such as how referees have to wear black underwear in case they split their pants. There were a lot of things mentioned

that I had never heard before, so it was an interesting read.

In Geography, there are chapters devoted to The Earth, Continents, Water; Mountains, Deserts and Forests; The Fifty United States; and Natural Disasters. Again, A.J. and Andrea both chime in with snippets of knowledge.

These would make great gifts for reluctant readers, because the information is funny and intriguing, but also short and well illustrated. These aren't quite what I would pick up for fun; I'd rather read a 300 page book on the history of Cadbury chocolate, instead of short unconnected facts, but my students don't. Gutman is always fun to read, but I wish he would come out with some more stand alone fiction. The My Weird School series is definitely on the elementary side of the Pilkey Line.

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### **Rosemary says**

Fast Facts: Sports has chapters devoted to the biggies: baseball, football, soccer, basketball, hockey, golf, and auto racing. Other chapters include facts about speed records; other sports, like skating, skiing, bowling, and tennis; the Olympics, and a wrap-up of other weird sports facts. You want to know why umpires have to wear black underwear? The answer's in here. Like Fast Facts: Geography, Fast Facts: Sports is loaded with photos, statistics and fun facts, and black and white illustrations by My Weird School illustrator Jim Paillot.

The Fast Facts books are fun. The Sports books will be popular with kids who are fans of the series or just sports fans in general; it's a good companion book for kids who love wacky facts and ephemera. The Geography book is a good companion book that you can booktalk when kids come in with a geography project – it's a companion book, an additional book, but the My Weird School brand will make sure it gets read, and maybe, just maybe, inspire a reader to explore an interesting topic.

Kids love My Weird School and all its offshoots. These are the second and third books in a nonfiction series (the first, My Weird Writing Tips, was published in 2013). Having some nonfiction feature popular characters hopefully spikes some interest.

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### **Erika Gentry says**

Read this with my 3rd and 5th grader when we could find time. It's filled with tons of fascinating facts about sports and it's told in an informative and humorous way. We all gave it 4 Stars. Why does home plate have 5 sides? was extremely interesting. This would be a good read aloud for the classroom during our upcoming Winter Olympics (Chapter 10). Dan Gutman made two My Weird School books like this as well-I bought those too (MWS Geography and MWS Explorers, Presidents, and Toilets) and intend to read them as well.

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### **Great Books says**

Learn hundreds of weird-but-true sports facts about baseball, soccer, hockey and more with A.J. and Andrea from the My Weird School series.

Reviewer 1

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## Sara says

The book is narrated by Arlo and a girl that really annoys him named Andrea. They have some serious banter and they throw in some seriously interesting facts to learn. The more random the fact the more my son loves it.

So what sort of interesting facts have we learned? Here are just a few of our favorites.

\* Finland has a sport called wife carrying. The author suggests watching YouTube videos of it and they do exist and it's amusing. Basically the husband carries his wife on his back while completing an obstacle course.

\* Snail racing is another random sport that is popular in England. It's a weird fact and of course the weirder the facts the more we love them.

\* Did you know that the tallest player in NBA history was 7 feet 7 inches? Well, now you do.

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## Christine H says

I love learning random facts, though I'll be the first to admit that I don't always remember what I've learned. If you're into geography, sports, or random trivia, you'll find Dan Gutman's My Weird School Fast Facts: Sports a very awesome read.

Squinklethoughts

1. Are you already a fan of Gutman's My Weird School (and My Weirder School and My Weird School Daze) series, which began in 2004? My students love these stories, which are full of memorable characters and funny dialogue. We particularly enjoy their rockin' rhymin' titles like Mrs. Yonkers is Bonkers! and Mr. Harrison is Embarrassin'!.
2. In both Geography and Sports, you get to hang out with A.J. and Andrea outside of school. Their very different personalities make for great banter between them. I'd like to think that they are still friends-ish even though they bother the heck out of each other a lot.
3. You'll love learning about how "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" began and why Ulrich Salchow's and Alois Lutz' names are mentioned very often in the winter.
4. I particularly enjoyed how Gutman assigns the chapters based on different sports. The one on baseball is really long, so my only disappointment is that the other chapters (like the one on hockey) were just as long. I am glad that curling and table tennis were mentioned though! And I loved learning lots of cool stuff about the Olympics.
5. Jim Paillot's artwork is phenomenal. You'll enjoy the the drawings on each page that help bring Arlo's and Andrea's narrations come to life. Definitely check out his website!

This review originally appeared on my blog, Squinklebooks.

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## **Mymcbooks says**

My Review: Another fun book that the kids will love to read.

A.J. and his gang from My Weird School are back and this time the study of discussion is Fast Facts about Sport.

FTC Disclosure: I received a review copy of this book HarperCollins Publishing in exchange for a fair and honest review. I was not monetarily compensated for my opinion in any way.

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