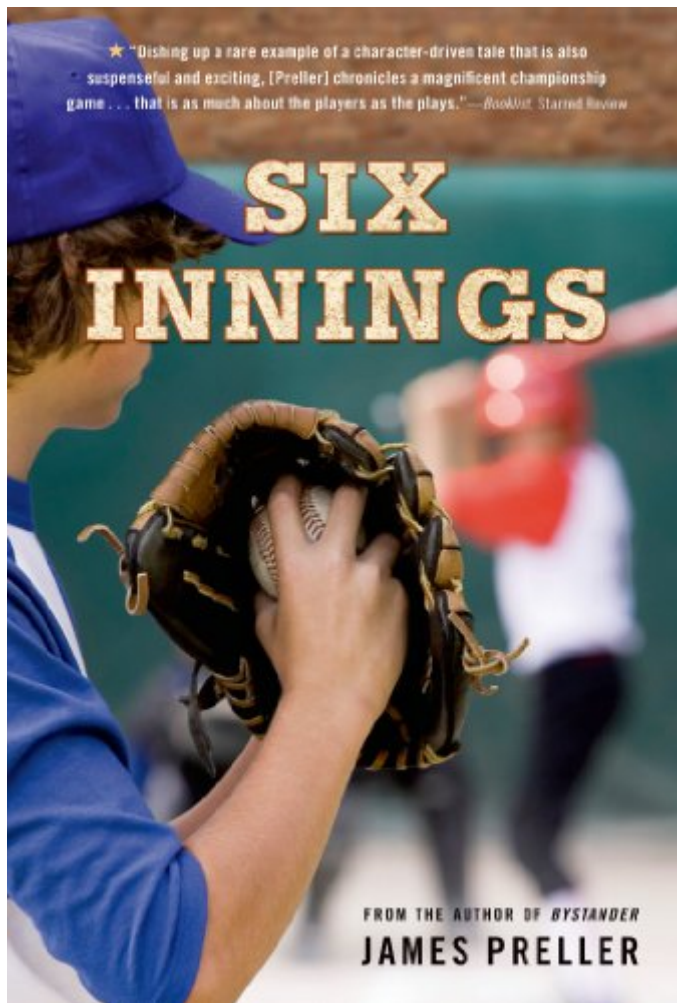


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# Six Innings



## Synopsis

Two teams, six innings, one game. A lively cast of characters – baseball-loving boys between the ages of eleven to thirteen – are playing the biggest game of their lives. With acrobatic catches, clutch hits, dramatic whiffs, and costly errors, this game is full of action. But as the book unfolds, pitch by pitch, a deeper story emerges, with far more at stake: Sam and Mike, best friends, are trying to come to terms with Sam's newly diagnosed cancer. And this baseball diamond becomes the ultimate testing ground of Sam and Mike's remarkable friendship as they strive to find a way to both come out winners. This is for the championship. This is for life. *Six Innings* is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

File Size: 1475 KB

Print Length: 174 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0312602405

Publisher: Feiwel & Friends; Reprint edition (March 2, 2010)

Publication Date: March 2, 2010

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003H4I4EK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #602,741 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #11

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Personal Health > Diseases, Illnesses & Injuries #70 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #81

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## Customer Reviews

The book gives a play-by-play account of a Little League final match: "Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies" faces "Northeast Gas & Electric" and its intimidating star pitcher Nick Clemente. It's an exciting

match, filled with tension, excellent plays and some errors too. However, interspersed with the six innings of the game, we get glimpses into the boys' thoughts and stories, focusing on the Pool Supplies team. We get to know them and cheer for them as they take on their tough rivals. This is a novel that any sports fan will enjoy. There's a lot of baseball, obviously, but there's also friendship, real life problems, teamwork and good-natured fun. It's a rather short novel, but an enjoyable one.

This author spoke to our students at our school. His talk was well-suited for elementary students. The children were enthralled with his readings. I cannot wait to share this with my students in full.

Bought it so I could do summer reading with my Grandson. I enjoyed it, he understood the plot and subplot. It was a good read!

Great read for 12 year old boy who does not like to read

My son loved this book.

The product arrived very quickly and was exactly as advertised. I would recommend this seller.

I read Six Innings with my sixth grader, who can't wait for baseball season to start each spring. We absolutely loved it! This book is wonderful on so many levels. James Preller captures the game of baseball and all that it means to kids (and adults). But it's not just a book about baseball. It's about being a kid. It's about being part of a team. It's about being a friend. Six Innings is the story of two close friends, Sam and Mike, and the ups and downs of their friendship, their families, their lives. Their story, like the stories of the rest of the little leaguers in the book, is revealed pitch by pitch, half-inning by half-inning, as a dramatic championship game is played. The baseball action is entertaining, realistic, and filled with the twists and turns that come with the game. Young readers will identify with the authentic characters and dialogue. If kids don't recognize themselves somewhere in this book, then they'll recognize kids they know. Don't think that this is "just a baseball book" though - it is so much more. The depth of the story beyond the game and the challenges the kids face off the field will completely draw you in, too. Should be required reading at little league diamonds around the country this spring!

Six Innings by James Preller is just that, the play by play description of six innings of a Little League

baseball game. All of our nation's obsession with the sanctity of the game is concentrated in this afternoon of play by two teams of boys. The book opens in Sam Reiser's bedroom, where he is lying in bed, a young amputee now only able to announce his team's play, to speak the words for actions he can no longer perform. We think we are in for a problem novel, a book about adjusting to a handicap. Then the innings begin, and we realize that Preller has found the perfect dramatic structure in which he can write about twenty-four different boys in depth, each member of the team. Using the inexorable action of the six innings, he delineates the interplay of personalities, abilities, the age of the players and their temperaments. The hopelessness of young Patrick Wong in outfield, praying the ball won't go to him, vowing never to play again after his last humiliating strike out, is compared to the hard throwing pitcher, who already shows signs of a moustache. Although everyone cares deeply and intensely, the action is balanced by the humor of the identical twins, the serious one, Eamon Sweeney, and the leftie, Colin Sweeney, referred to by their coach as the Right Sweeney and the Wrong Sweeney and the attitude of the coaches themselves. In a tense moment, a coach takes his team aside and urges them to "Have fun." Six Innings has a lingering effect, the way baseball does, its pace subtle, leaving the lingering promise of summer.

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