

Abner Doubleday, Boy Baseball Pioneer

Author: Montrew Dunham, Illustrator: Cathy Morrison

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Montrew Dunham's *Abner Doubleday, Boy Baseball Pioneer* is the eleventh volume in the Young Patriots Series, telling about the everyday life of the young Abner growing up in Auburn, New York. Aside from going to school and doing chores at home, he manages to get himself into many different adventures, including confronting the famous General Lafayette and retrieving a stolen trunk from the woods. But however many adventures he got himself into, Abner seemed never to find himself as content as when he was playing baseball with his dog, Brownie, his brother, and his friends. Whether he played at school, in the woods, at home, or whether it was "one old cat" or "three old cat", he always showed the greatest passion and enthusiasm for the sport. There are multiple black-and-white drawings throughout the book as well as a timeline and fun facts about his life, and a list of his most significant adult accomplishments.

I think that this book is very classic and uses practical language to bring to life the story of Abner Doubleday as a young boy, reminiscing Laura Ingalls Wilders' books about her own childhood. The characters are well created, and each of their personalities is shown through their actions and the descriptions of their character. Each of them is very distinct and shows good virtue and passion for what they do. The plot is not particularly suspenseful or complicated, but is rather a simple story of the adventures that occurred in Abner's everyday life throughout this period of his childhood. In my opinion, this book is best suited for readers aged 8-12. The language used and the events which are incorporated into the plot best fit their reading comprehension level. I think that reading this book would greatly benefit them by allowing them to have a glimpse into life in the 19th century and into the origins of baseball, which has now become a popular sport. I think young readers could learn greatly from Abner's passion for what he did, which successfully shines through in this book.