

Satch and Me

Dan Gutman

Reviewed by: Anthony McLaughlin, 23

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Satch and Me is a time travelling journey focusing on one of the greatest athletes of all time, Satchel Paige. A young baseball player, Stosh, is a student of the game. Simply playing isn't enough. He wants to know the inside and outside of his favorite sport. One day after practice, Stosh begins questioning his coach about historical players. This leads to the question of who threw the fastest pitch. With little hesitation, his coach declares Satchel Paige as the owner of that title. Stosh doesn't recognize the name and understandably wants to learn more about his coach's favorite pitcher. Possessing the ability to time travel, the two embark on an adventure to the 1940's. Their plot to determine if "Satch" is the fastest pitcher, becomes overshadowed by the harsh reality of 1942. The two see discrimination and segregation first hand, while experiencing the everyday battle of African Americans and Negro League players.

Satch and Me is an entertaining read. Baseball is the main topic, but it's much more than just a sports book. It's a difficult task to make a fun, light hearted children's book that highlights segregation. Dan Gutman accomplished exactly that. The book is an educational and factual one too. I consider myself a big sports fan and was impressed by how much history I learned. Black and white pictures are included throughout the story which assist in creating a mental image of how the times were. Any fan of baseball, sports in general, or historical fiction will enjoy their time reading.

Some of the concepts might be difficult for young children to grasp, so I'd say this is ages 8 and up. This would be a great gift for anyone ages 8-14 and I definitely would recommend all ages checking it out from the library. *Satch and Me* has something to offer for everyone.

Related Titles:

Jackie and Me - Dan Gutman

Willie and Me - Dan Gutman

Mickie and Me - Dan Gutman