

The Super Sluggers: Slumpbuster

Kevin Markey

Reviewed by: Anthony McLaughlin, 23

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

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Banjo Bishbash is one of the best hitters in Little League Baseball. Due to his home run style of hitting, the nickname the “Walloper” was earned. The “Walloper” is a superstitious sort and credits his odd game day routine as the reason he’s on such a hot hitting streak. That includes having each teammate rub his head. On the day determining who will take over 1st place, Banjo is feeling unlucky. This unlucky feeling is causing his confidence to drop and he strikes out in the one of the biggest games of the year. The “Walloper” is officially in a batting slump. Some days feel like a cloud is hanging over one’s head; Banjo literally has a “slump cloud” over his. His ability is clearly diminishing as the cloud’s power has him dropping to last in the batting lineup. As the season is ending and the championship game approaches, the “Walloper” must find a way to live up to his name once again.

The Super Sluggers: Slumpbuster is a simple, yet entertaining read. As I was finishing up I realized my only critique was regarding the characters; they seemed a little outdated in comparison to today’s kids. The outdatedness gave off a vibe similar to the classic movie *The Sandlot*, which makes it acceptable. Athletes will find relatable moments throughout the book. I’ve been through a disastrous hitting slump and remembering myself in Banjo’s shoes brought on a few laughs. Striking out can bring on some confidence issues to even the greatest players. In the days when strikeouts could mean tears, this book would have been soothing for my shot confidence. My ugly swing needed saving, and had I let Banjo’s journey inspire me it might be. Non-sports fans will still find the messages conveyed valuable to all aspects of life. Kevin Markey frequently harps on the point of never giving up, regardless of the task at hand’s difficulty.

The Super Sluggers: Slumpbuster is book for ages 7-13. While looking through the perspective of a 6th grade boy may cause some exclusion; all hardball fans will appreciate this. This would make a perfect gift for any baseball playing kid. Check this one out from the library if sports is low or non-existing on the interest meter. I’d recommend this read to baseball fans looking for a silly read.

Related Titles:

The Super Sluggers: Wing Ding - Kevin Markey

The Super Sluggers: Wall Ball - Kevin Markey

Baseball World Series (Little League) - Matt Christopher