



THE HOMETOWN **ALL STARS**

MEDIA APPEARANCES PUBLICITY

Q&A

Q: How did you come up with the idea for the Hometown All Stars?

A: THE HOMETOWN ALL STARS, in its most reduced form, was created to teach baseball through bedtime reading and to get kids playing outside again. I am a coach. I see kids every year showing up on their first day and not knowing which way to run or what home plate is. That's why they bring their kids to me! "I wanted to write a book about...what I do every day."

Q: You say the books are educational as well as fun. What type of lessons will children learn?

A: Early reading with sight and sound vocabulary words, search & find activities with numbers and letters, team building and participation skills and beginner baseball skills including B-Ball/Little League rules, standards and traditions. And that is only in book one! The series provide even more with batting tips, team building skills, and more.

Q: In Amira Can Catch, it goes beyond just tolerance. Amira isn't just tolerated, she is welcomed, accepted, and made to feel like part of the school and the team from day one. How do we teach our children that tolerance alone, is not enough?

A: Obviously, tolerance alone is not enough. It is just one of our common core principles. From the start, the Hometown All Stars teach our kids a world of life lessons, it's just normal! If the Hometown All Stars do it, why wouldn't the rest of the kids in the world?

Q: Why is the message of tolerance an important message for children to hear today?

A: As Amira Can Catch points out, America is the melting pot because of its ability to bring people of all races, religions and ideals into one place. It is a place of diversity and therefore, a place for tolerance. Tolerance is the modern buzzword, but it is a core social value of America.

Q: Why is it important for kids to understand current events? What value does it give them?

A: There was so much to share, so much to say, so much to influence the children of today with, and to provide them insight and perspective of the safe country that we live in. We work hard for what we have. So, let's not waste it and be grateful for what we do have. I hope to convey meaningful lessons of gratefulness, appreciation, compassion and empathy.

Q: How can literature impact the kind of world citizens our children are? What values do your books teach?

A: Literature is like mash potatoes. Absolutely delicious! And yet, they are really scary for kids. They don't want to try them, they are scared of them, and slowly they age into acceptance and loving them. As we age, our taste buds change and so do our reading choices. The Hometown All Stars alleviate the fear of starting something new and allow kids to live through the eyes of Nick,

Author Bios

Kevin Christofora

found his true calling when he began to coach little league baseball. After a successful career as a package engineer working with brands like Calvin Klein, Revlon, and Estee Lauder, Christofora now much prefers working with the children of the local Little League. Coaching gives him the opportunity to teach players that it is much more than a game. Baseball is about honor, respect, and community.



Christofora wrote The Hometown All Stars books as a series of “bedtime stories” to get younger kids interested in the national pastime again. A strong advocate for “less screen, more green,” he hopes the books will encourage kids to get out of the house and onto the field. To him, baseball teaches kids valuable lessons about teamwork, discipline, strategy, and thinking before they act.

With no regrets about leaving the corporate world and returning to his own hometown and the family business, Christofora continues to write and coach, passing along his excitement for the game to as many children as he can.

Dale Tangeman

found art and baseball to be his two of his main loves. One of his fondest memories of baseball was being selected to play in his little league all-star game as short-stop. A very large kid came up to bat and hit a rocket right at his head. The crowd gasped, but he managed to catch the ball squarely in his glove to save the game. It was a very proud moment that cemented his love of the sport.



Tangeman began his long artistic career in advertising in Ohio, working in various studios and agencies. Moving to New York so his son could attend Julliard, he landed a position as art director at one of the largest Madison Avenue ad agencies, working with top brands. After working his way up to senior art director, he would later go out on his own to start a successful graphic art and design studio. A large ad agency would lure him back to Ohio for a few years, where he worked until retiring from advertising. He and his wife followed their heart back to their adopted state of New York, settling in Woodstock.

Since his retirement, Dale has been active in the Woodstock art community. He donates graphic art services to the little league, buys and sells vintage movie posters, plays his guitar in a local group, and, last but not least, works with Kevin Christofora as illustrator and partner on his series of baseball books for children, The Hometown All Stars. By helping to create these books, Tangeman hopes his grandchildren will take an interest in baseball and create memories as lasting as his.

Synopsis

Amira Can Catch

The fourth book in The Hometown All Stars series. Amira—a Syrian refugee—lands in a new home in America and is welcomed by Nick and the rest of the All Stars team. The book stresses the need to accept people from around the world for who they are, not how they look or dress. America is a melting pot, where are your parents from? We all have ancestors who immigrated to America from other countries. Batter up for a great tale that celebrates the spirit of our country and our national pastime... Baseball.



- Retail Price: Hardcover (\$12.99) and Digital (\$3.99)
- Publisher: Clarens Publishing (April 2018)
- Language: English
- ISBN-13: 978-0-9863493-3-1
- LOC# 2017935639

TGIT, Thank Goodness It's T-Ball Day

It's T-Ball Day! You have to learn how to hit, run and throw before you can play a real game. TGIT, the third book in an ongoing series teaches children sports skills using real coaching techniques! Join the Hometown All Stars team as they learn how to pitch and throw to targets, and have some team fun while they're at it! The kids even get introduced to a legend of the game, Cy Young. Games, exercises and great lessons abound as Coach Kevin concludes practice with three key messages: HONOR the game, RESPECT each other and be part of your COMMUNITY.

- Retail Price: Hardcover (\$12.99) and Digital (\$3.99)
- Publisher: Clarens Publishing (April, 2016)
- Language: English
- ISBN-13: 978-0-9863493-2-4
- LOC#: 2015960086

One Sheet

Why should children read The Hometown All Stars books?

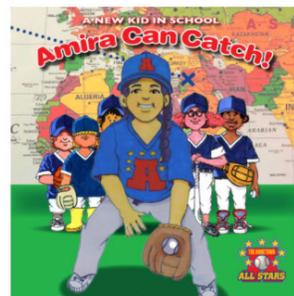
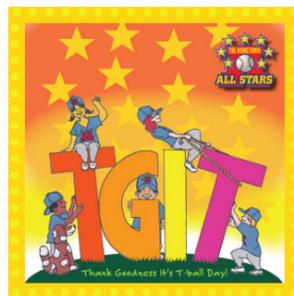
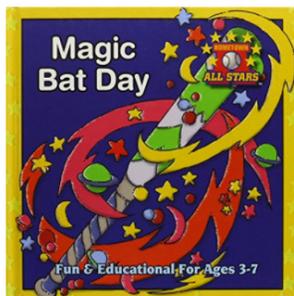
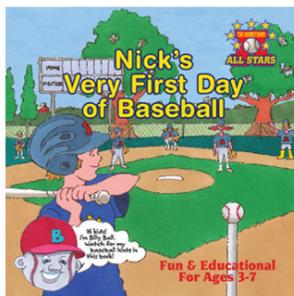
All the books in the series encourage younger kids, ages 3 to 7, to get outside and get active. With so much technology and screen time competing for our kids' attention, we need to promote "less screen, more green." While learning about baseball and early sports skills, kids will have fun reading the interesting stories about kids just like them.

Who are The Hometown All Stars?

In this series, children will be introduced to all the members of the Hometown All Stars' team. Stories focus on kids who are learning the same things all kids are: how to make friends with people who are different from them, work as a team, try and learn new skills, and have fun doing it.

Will the adults like the books, too?

Yes! Parents will love the stories, especially if it's been a while since they've picked up bat and ball. They'll get up to speed quickly on the skills that their child needs to learn to play the game. Sports enthusiasts will appreciate that the great stories involve real kids instead of talking animals, and they will love the focus on the technical aspects of the game. Teachers and librarians will want to add these titles to their collection because of the diverse stories geared toward younger readers and the great lessons they teach.



Testimonials

In a day in age where the focus is on diverse books I love how you have incorporated children, both male and female, of different races. That is something extremely important that we stress in the library. I would recommend this book from ages 3-10, I feel that even though it could work for younger students the mechanics of the sport included could work for the older kids. The aspect of team building featured in Nicks Very First Day of Baseball is valuable lesson not only for baseball but for school and life. One of my favorite parts of the books was the informational facts peppered in the books. The baseball card of Cy Young and the word blurb in TGIT is a great incorporation of true history. The mechanics of the sport related to everyday objects such as a windmill, with a picture is a useful comparison. The questions at the end are not only Nicks favorite part, they were mine as well! Reading comprehension is a huge part of my job, a teachers job or a parents job. By incorporating it into the book you made everyone's job a lot easier!

Morgan O'Reilly

Young Adult Librarian at The New York Public Library

I work at both a university library and a public library. I have found that with children's books, especially, the cover artwork is a huge factor as far as how often a book is circulated, and I found the artwork for "Magic Bat Day" is very appealing. If you can catch the reader's attention with the cover, you can hook the reader with the content. I will definitely give it a good look when it comes in and try to provide more feedback then. I will also pass it along to the Children's Department manager for consideration of inclusion in the collection.

Vicky Coffin

Wethersfield Public Library, CT.

Synopsis

Nick's Very First Day of Baseball

Nick's Very First Day of Baseball, the first in the Hometown All Stars book series for children ages three to seven, teaches children about baseball using real coaching techniques. In this interactive storybook, kids will find hidden baseballs in the pictures, answer trivia questions, and there's even a page for autographs from their favorite players. Fun, interactive and educational.

- Retail Price: Hardcover (\$12.99) and Digital (\$3.99)
- Publisher: Clarens Publishing (March, 2015)
- Language: English
- ISBN-13: 978-0-9863493-0-0
- LOC#: 2015931423

Magic Bat Day

Magic Bat Day is the first real practice after the Hometown All Stars get their uniforms. Batting is the most fun of all skills and drills! This book concept shows techniques of how to hold the bat and where to stand. Most importantly, it shows that every kid can find their own 'magic' bat and the magic within themselves to hit the ball!

- Retail Price: Hardcover (\$12.99) and Digital (\$3.99)
- Publisher: Clarens Publishing (September, 2015)
- Language: English
- ISBN-13: 978-0-9863493-1-7
- LOC#: 2015931424

Press Release

Review Copies and Interviews Available on Request

New Children's Book Teaches Kids to Befriend Syrian Refugees Who Are New in School

In the newest installment in the Hometown All Stars series of children's books-- 'Amira Can Catch'-- the Hometown All-Stars befriend a new girl in school, Amira, who is a Syrian Refugee. Author Kevin Christofora says his hope is that children will "be willing to befriend a new classmate or teammate, even if that person is from a different background."

It's not a new tale: there's a new kid in school. She's shy, and a little quiet— but she blossoms into a joyful, silly child when befriended by some of the other kids. That's the story of Amira, the new kid at school in the upcoming "Hometown All Stars" [children's book](#). Only, there's one difference with Amira: she's new, because she left her home country of Syria over a year before.

The Hometown All Stars series of children's [baseball books](#) teach children a variety of lessons: from basic arithmetic to healthy exercise habits, there's no shortage of things to learn. With Amira Can Catch, Christofora also makes a powerful statement about acceptance and inclusivity, in a time when it's extremely important to impart those values. Additionally, with the book series translated into over 20 languages, children from many different backgrounds can benefit from these lessons.

In Amira Can Catch, Amira struggles with spelling and math at school, and it could keep her from joining the team. Luckily, with some help for both her and the reader, she's able to join the Hometown All Stars and play baseball with everyone else. Amira CanCatch aims to teach readers about Willie Mays and how to catch pop fly balls, as well as reading maps— as well as a number of other lessons.

"I want kids to be able to read Amira Can Catch and be willing to befriend a new classmate or teammate, even if that person is from a different background," says Christofora. Distributed by Midpoint Books, "The Hometown All Stars" series is currently available on Amazon, as well as thehometownallstars.com; Amira Can Catch will be available in September.

Kevin Christofora

Christofora, a father and little league coach, hopes his books will inspire children to play outside more often. A devotee of America's pastime, he aims to teach young people about baseball and the habits of a healthy lifestyle in the form of a fun and educational bedtime story.

He has appeared on ABC News, ESPN Radio, 660 News Radio, Santa Fe - KVSF 101.5, and WDST-FM Woodstock, and has had articles featured in About Families Online, KidzEdge, Mom Blog Society, and several other publications.

Brittany Bearden

Co-Founder, At Large Public Relations

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“The statewide summer reading committee has created Pinterest pages for the books we're suggesting for the 2016 program and all three of your books have been chosen to be listed there.”

Sharon Rawlins

Youth Services Specialist in Lifelong Learning,
New Jersey State Library

“Batter up for any baseball-loving family.”

Kirkus Reviews

The Hometown All Stars are much more than just a book, it is educational. My kids were hopping out of their seats, doing warm-ups and shouting out, right along with the characters.

Heather Kinvig

Educator and Homeschooling Mom, Tx.

“Reveals splendid character studies and moral purpose...
and the essence of fun and teamwork.”

David Kaplan

Director, Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center, NJ

“I’m an author, but my enthusiasm for Kevin’s series doesn’t come from the mind of a writer. It comes from the heart of a grandfather. Reading these books with my grandson I watched him soak up the facts about the game they still call America’s pastime. When we were done reading, I launched into a few of my own “when I was a boy just about your age” baseball stories, and watched his eyes get wider, his grin get broader, and our connection got deeper. It made me wonder — are these books for kids? Or were they written for parents and grandparents who want to bond with their kids? Thank you, Kevin.”

MARSHALL KARP-JAMES PATTERSON

Co-author, Author, NYPD RED

Photo Collage



Social Media Posts

Facebook & Instagram: [@TheHometownAllStars](#)

Twitter & Periscope: [@HometownAStars](#)

Hashtags: [#HometownAllStars](#) [#HometownFan](#) [#MoreGreenLessScreen](#) [#GetActive](#)

1. New book series gets kids off the couch and outside for “Less Screen, More Green”
www.TheHometownAllStars.com
2. Nick’s Very First Day of Baseball – A great new book from [@HometownAStars](#)
(or [@TheHometownAllStars](#)) www.TheHometownAllStars.com
3. Free [#coloringbook](#) on the Hometown All Stars site! www.TheHometownAllStars.com
4. Do you have your team swag yet? [#HometownFan](#) [#HometownAllStars](#)
www.TheHometownAllStars.com/shop
5. Can you guess what warm-up the All Stars are doing if I say, “Rocket and Pencil.”? Find out here...www.TheHometownAllStars.com [#GetActive](#)
6. Meet the All Stars! [#HometownAllStars](#) [#HometownFan](#)
<http://thehometownallstars.com/meet-the-all-stars/>
7. Are you a [#LittleLeague](#) coach? Check out this new book that will teach kids beginner baseball skills before they hit the field! www.TheHometownAllStars.com
8. “All of you are going to find a magic bat and learn how to hit the ball. Maybe, one day, you can be just like the Babe!” [#BabeRuth](#) [#MagicBatDay](#) www.TheHometownAllStars.com
9. [#Coaching](#) tip: Spray paint circles on the dirt for kids to keep their feet in. It keeps their bodies facing the right way! www.TheHometownAllStars.com
10. How to get dad more involved in bedtime reading? [#Sports!](#) [#GetActive](#)
www.TheHometownAllStars.com



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ALL STARS

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