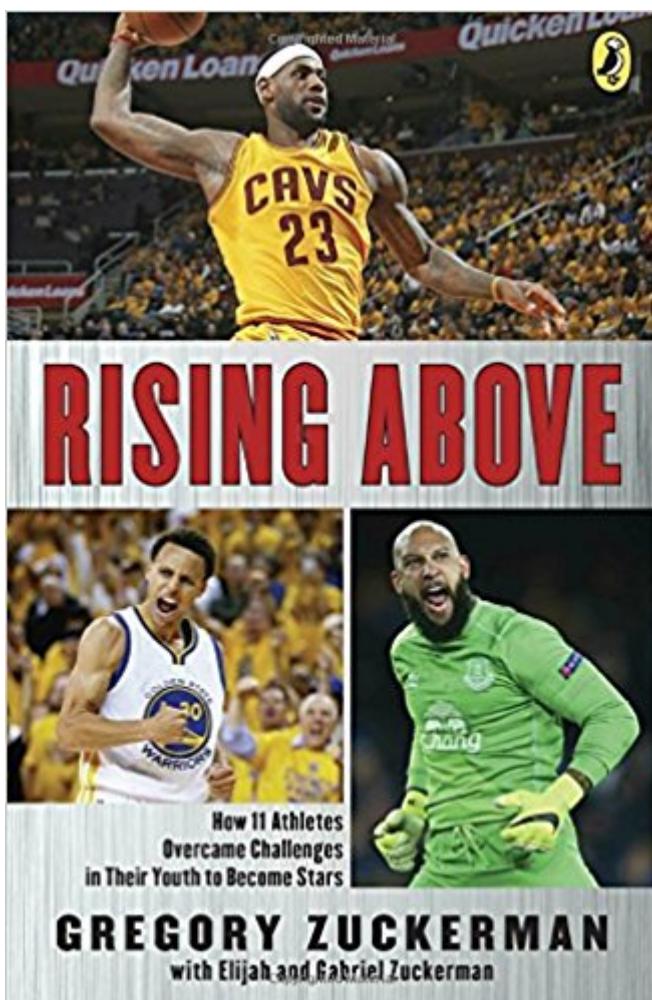


The book was found

# Rising Above: How 11 Athletes Overcame Challenges In Their Youth To Become Stars



## Synopsis

Discover the inspirational real-life stories of superstar athletes like LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Tim Howard, and more! "Packs a powerful message—perseverance and passion pay off." Even non-sports fans will cheer for superstars like LeBron James and Stephen Curry.—Scholastic TeacherTeam USA goalkeeper Tim Howard was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome in 6th grade. He went on to become a national treasure after single-handedly keeping America competitive in the 2014 World Cup. Stephen Curry was told he was too small, too weak, and too slow to even receive a scholarship to play college basketball. He outworked everyone and went on to become MVP of the National Basketball Association. Jim Abbott was born without his right hand, yet he refused to be defined by what he lacked. He went on to pitch a no-hitter in the Major Leagues. Athlete after athlete in this book found discipline, hope, and inspiration on the playing field, rising above their circumstances. Filled with first-hand accounts from stars who exemplify the idea of enduring at all costs, *Rising Above* will serve as a must-read source of inspiration for kids and sports fans of all ages. A Scholastic Teacher magazine Summer Reading List selection. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Summer Reading List selection

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1010 (What's this?)

Paperback: 256 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,940 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Sports & Recreation #16 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse #73 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 6-8 • In this collection of profiles, the authors outline the early lives and

significant challenges of 11 standout athletes, tracing some of the personal traits that helped them succeed despite long odds. Only one of the athletes is a woman, tennis great Althea Gibson. Her chapter is especially motivational, detailing her endurance of hateful attacks and racist barriers. At the close of each chapter, the athlete weighs the demands he or she has faced and reflects on important lessons learned. Several athletes describe sexual and physical abuse, the loss or absence of parents, or, in the case of Congolese-born NBA forward Serge Ibaka, coming-of-age in a war zone. Though the narrative is fluid throughout, the authors occasionally lapse into play-by-play patter, describing, for example, basketball star Stephen Curry "knocking down threes," meaning three-point throws, though elsewhere they take pains to define elementary aspects of the sports. In an afterword, Gregory Zuckerman credits the idea for the book to one of his sons, both of whom are listed as coauthors, a potential selling point. VERDICT Despite some minor blemishes, this will be an easy pitch for middle school sports lovers. —Bob Hassett, Luther Jackson Middle School, Falls Church, VA --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Praise for *Rising Above*:  
Scholastic Teacher Magazine Summer Reading List selection  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Summer Reading List selection "An easy pitch for middle school sports lovers." --School Library Journal "This collection of mini-bios about athletes who overcame major obstacles packs a powerful message: perseverance and passion pay off. Even non-sports fans will cheer for superstars like LeBron James and Stephen Curry." --Scholastic Teacher "So many of the obstacles that these athletes share are retold using personal interviews and primary source material that young readers will find very relatable. Though the people chronicled are all athletes, their stories have morals that are easily transferred to life off the court or the field. The highly relevant message is that no situation is too dire or insurmountable with the right attitude and that young people shouldn't allow setbacks to define them." --Booklist "[O]ften inspiring . . . The underdog stories reveal that dedication and perseverance pay off, as well as that sports can serve as needed outlets and refuges." --Publishers Weekly "I would rate this a 9 1/2 . . . it touch[es] your heart very often with the ways these athletes turn[ed] their lives around." --Colorado Kids

I bought this book for our grandsons, ages 11, 8 and 6. To say that they love it would be an understatement. It is written in a style and a voice that communicates directly with them, and the examples are timely and inspiring. The 11 year old and the 8 year old take turns reading a chapter to each other and the 6 year old enjoys listening to the stories. It is a great birthday present and

every school library should have a copy.

My son is really enjoying this book. We got it for him for Christmas - we had been struggling to find things for him to read that interested him...and when I noticed he liked reading his Sports Illustrated magazine more than the library books, I figured we'd try some non-fiction. He knows most of these athletes already, and he loves basketball, soccer, tennis, and baseball, so the stories have some relevance for him. It's been a great new reading book that he's really enjoying, and it's definitely at a level than an 11-year-old can get through and understand.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book--kids in particular will love it but anyone who enjoys sports or motivational reading. Greg and his sons did a great job assembling these stories. Once you start the first chapter, you won't be able to put the book down-I highly recommend this, especially for people who play sports and can read about the major challenges that many of their heroes had to overcome.

I read the chapter about Althea Gibson to my grand-daughter who is 8 years old. She was really interested. I'm going to give a copy to my neighbor across the street, a young teen who aspires to be a major league baseball player. Parents and kids alike would enjoy this.

My eleven year old learned so much about struggle, grit and determination from this book. He would share the highlights from each chapter with me every night. This is an excellent teaching and communication tool to discuss sports and real life lessons that can be learned from athletes, beyond all the glamour our kids see in the media.

THE BOY I BOUGHT THE BOOK FOR LOVED IT VERY MUCH. HE READ IT WITH ENTHUSIASTIC AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS

12 year old son can't put it down....excellent!!!

The book is very popular with elementary and middle school aged students.

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