

# Baseball Saved Us

## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

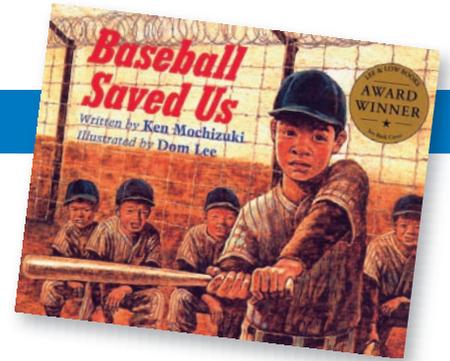
**Themes:** Sports, Japanese American Culture, Family, Perseverance, WWII

**Grade Level:** 4th to 5th grade

**Book Brief:** For a young Japanese-American boy sent to an internment camp during World War II, baseball becomes a way to escape his unhappy surroundings.

**Author:**  
Ken Mochizuki

**Illustrator:**  
Dom Lee



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Read the author's note at the front of the book. Discuss what the kids already know about WWII, the attack on Pearl Harbor and the creation of internment camps in this country. What would it be like to suddenly have your freedom taken away? How do you think a sport like baseball could "save" people?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS (AGES 8-12)

Materials: embroidery floss, scissors, tape

1. Choose six strands from three different colors of embroidery floss. Line up each strand in matching pairs. Make sure they are all the same length.
2. Hold all the strands together and tie a knot at the end. Separate the strands into three sections. Tape the knotted end to the table. This will hold the string for kids as they braid.
3. Braid the three strands. Keep going until the braid will fit around the child's wrist. At the end of the braid, combine the strands and tie a knot to the end.



See [www.knotcool.com](http://www.knotcool.com) for more ideas.

### PLAY BALL! (AGES 8-12)

Materials: bat, bases, whiffle ball

Everyone has something to contribute to a baseball game. Plan a game at your community center. Use a whiffle ball so kids don't need to wear gloves and you can use less space. Talk about how working together as a team makes each person a stronger player.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*Heroes* (1997), *Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story* (2003), *Be Water, My Friend* (2006).

### TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

[www.rif.org/kids](http://www.rif.org/kids)



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