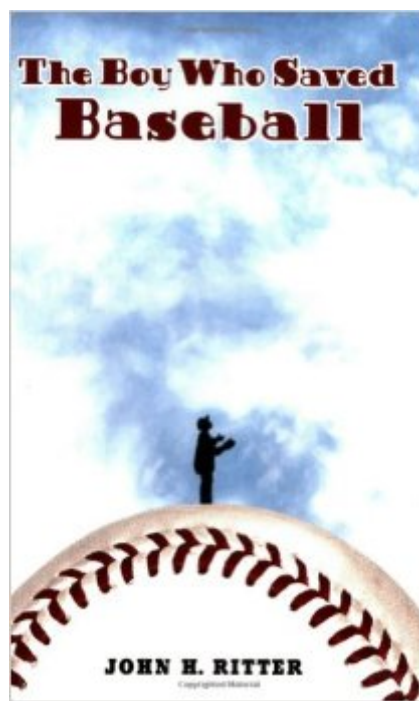


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# The Boy Who Saved Baseball



## Synopsis

Tom Gallagher is in a tight spot. The fate of the Dillontown team rests on the outcome of one baseball game, winner take all. If Tom's team loses, they lose their field too. But how can they possibly win? Just when everything seems hopeless, a mysterious boy named Cruz de la Cruz rides into town and claims to know the secret of hitting. Not to mention the secrets of Dante Del Gato, Dillontown's greatest hitter ever. Since he walked away from the game years ago, Del Gato hasn't spoken a word to anyone. But now he might be Tom's only hope for saving his hometown. From the award-winning author of *Over the Wall* and *Choosing Up Sides* comes this imaginative tale of one boy's struggle to preserve the spirit of the game he loves.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0660 (What's this?)

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Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (95 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #11,056 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball](#) #404 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#) #1021 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

The name of the book I read was *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* by John H. Ritter. The main conflict in this book is that the whole town especially the people who have a lot of money and own a lot of land want to tear down the old Dillontown baseball field, but their baseball team the wildcats don't and if they could beat the best team in the state they get to keep their baseball field. This is pretty much the main problem in the story. I didn't really dislike anything in the book the author was very creative the only sad part is when Doc dies but it is for a purpose. The book was very exciting. It was

exciting because the author was very creative with it and it always left you hanging in a way. When I was reading I felt like I was Tom because I have the exact same personality and he does what I would do. One of the best things about the book was its ending it was so creative, I love how the author thought ahead of time when he wrote the book. This book is the first book I have ever read by this author and I loved it it was absolutely awesome in a couple of days I am going to look up his name in the library and read another one. Also the author's writing was so descriptive I felt like I was in the book as I said before. This author's writing style is my writing style I loved it. I also like how he described his characters and what their personalities were. They were perfect for each person. If I had to rate this book I would give it a 3 thumbs up. After I read a book I always say I loved it and give it a 5 star rating. Not that the books were bad I just didn't enjoy them as much as I enjoyed this one especially the ending. I don't want to give anymore information out just in case you're reading this. I would recommend this book to boy or girl at any age it's a fantastic book. You have to read it! By:  
Max Mordini

What's most brilliant about *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* is how John Ritter writes to adults and children at the same time. The kids get the story on their "Let's go you cowboys, computer geeks, and baseball fanatics against huge odds" level. But for adults, on the higher level, this is easily one of the deepest and most thought-provoking baseball novels ever written. So much is here. There's the lyrical language. There's the pure love of the California mountains ("A boy needs to read the earth. This is a truth older than the iron dust that repaints the boulders. Older than the woolback mammoths that are fossilized in these hills."). As the forlorn baseball campers ponder the night sky, Ritter weaves in a prophecy alluding to the Vachel Lindsay poem, "The Congo." Throughout the book, a self-described tramp, Hollis B (based on Lindsay's "The Tramp"), shows up to talk in prophetic verse, as a sort of Greek chorus, using a broken cell phone as cover so no one will report him as crazy or dangerous. The characters are Mexican, Mexican-American, and Euro-American--without ever saying so--and are united. Not a big deal. Neither are the three girls (Maria is remarkable) who make up one third of the baseball team. And the parody of the radio talkshow, which shows up to broadcast from the field, is classic, especially when Hollis B talks about his position on the controversy using a soliloquy based on Casey Stengel's historical (and hysterical) testimony before Congress regarding baseball's monopoly. A deep and fun-loving novel for all, fan or not, this is a literary and storytelling gem. I highly recommend it. -Jenna Diaz, New York, NY.

I love this book! I've already read it three times and you have to see all the cool stuff in it. I really like Cruz de la Cruz and Tom and Maria Flores. But del Gato is my hero because he is so honest and doesn't care what people say. This book is a mystery and a legend and you never see the ending coming?you think you do but you don't. That's why I read it all over again. My dad loved it, too.

Tom Gallagher finds himself in a tight spot! The fate of Dilltown is on this one baseball game, winner takes the field. Just because Tom Gallagher had to open his big mouth. Darn! if only Tom Gallagher could get crazy old Dante Del Gato ( the best hitter ever known in baseball) to come down and coach his team. He lives high in the mountains of Dilltown and has not spoken to folks in years. Tom Gallagher and Cruz Del La Cruz go up to his house and convince him to coach the team. Dante Del Gato has once played on Lucky Strike Field and doesn't want it to turn into a lake.I think John H. Ritter was trying to tell me that even if you lose you still do good in all. But if one of your best players leaves you can still win the game against All-Stars. So try your best whenever you play a sport, in school, or doing your homework.John H. Ritter's last Novel was lively and dramatic. I recommend this book to all ages and grades above . This book is a fun book to read in groups also, or on your own.

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