

## **MIGHTY JACKIE: THE STRIKE OUT QUEEN**

### **Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2007 Grades 3-5**

Submitted by Lise' A. Taylor, Branch Manager, Cedar Grove/ Line Ave. Public Library (Shreveport) and Graduate Student at School of Library and Information Science, LSU; Linda Cannaday Terrell, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher (Phoenix Academic Magnet School, Alexandria) and Graduate Student at School of Library and Information Science, LSU (Professor: Dr. Margie Thomas); Callie Oliver and Lindsay Webb, Students at University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Instructor: Dorothy Grimsley)

**Mighty Jackie: The Strike Out Queen** by Marissa Moss. Illustrated by C. F. Payne. Simon & Schuster, 2004. 32 p.

#### **Summary**

Marissa Moss tells a true story of determination and heroism. April 2, 1931 was an important day in baseball history. On this day the Chattanooga Lookouts, a women's baseball team, played the New York Yankees in an exhibition game. Thousands packed the stadium to see the Lookouts' pitcher, seventeen-year-old Jackie Mitchell, pitch against the Yankees using her "lefty pitch with a low dip." Jackie made baseball history by striking out baseball greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. This slice-of-life biography explains how Jackie grew up playing ball with her father. He taught her that a girl can do anything she sets her mind to. Jackie spent a lot of time practicing when she was growing up and she was better than good. Jackie Mitchell showed the world of baseball that a girl can be mighty and strike out the greats just as well as anyone.

#### **Awards**

Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award Nominee 2005  
IRA Teachers' Choices for 2005-2006  
Top Ten Youth Sports Books of the Year, Booklist 2004  
ALA Notable Children's Books, 2005

#### **Author's Biography**

Marissa Moss grew up in a family where reading was important and she became an avid reader as a result of her family's attitude toward reading. Mrs. Moss studied fine art at San Jose State University and art history at University of California at Berkeley. She finished her formal education at the California College of Arts and Crafts where she studied the art of illustration. She started her writing career with a book published in 1988 which she is glad is now out of print. But she is happy about the start this book gave her. Moss has since gone on to write more than thirty popular picture books and a series of beginning readers featuring a young writer named Amelia. She lives in California with her husband, Harvey, and their sons, Simon, Elias and Asa.

<http://www.marissamoss.com/>

[http://childrenslit.com/f\\_mrissamoss.htm](http://childrenslit.com/f_mrissamoss.htm)

<http://www2:scholastic.com/teachers/authorsandbooks/authorstudies/authorhome.jhtml?authorID>

### **Other Titles by Marissa Moss**

*Amelia Hits the Road* and other titles in the Amelia series

*Brave Harriet: The First Woman to Fly the English Channel*

*Dr. Amelia's Boredom Survival Guide: First Aid for Rainy Days, Boring Errands, Waiting Rooms, Whatever!*

*Hannah's Journal: The Story of an Immigrant Girl*

*Max's Logbook*

*Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl*

*Rose's Journal: The Story of a Girl in the Great Depression*

*True Heart*

### **Illustrator's Biography**

C.F. Payne graduated from Miami University in Ohio with a BFA. He worked in illustration studios in Akron, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois for several years. In 1980, he began his career as a freelance illustrator. He lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Paula, and their sons Trevor and Evan. His work has been displayed with other artists at the Norman Rockwell Museum. He has done work for well-known magazines such as *Esquire* and *The New York Times*. The Society of Illustrators of New York and of Los Angeles have given his works Gold and Silver awards. Mr. Payne taught in colleges for ten years and now works out of a studio in his Cincinnati home. His most recent illustration collaboration with Moss is the jacket cover for *True Heart*.

[http://palooza.com/books\\_illustrators.html](http://palooza.com/books_illustrators.html)

<http://www.cfpayne.com/>

### **Related Titles**

*Baseball Saved Us* by Ken Mochizuki.

*Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888* by Ernest L. Thayer.

*The Girl Who Struck Out Babe Ruth* by Jean L.S. Patrick.

*Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings* by Deborah Hopkinson.

*H is for Homerun: A Baseball Alphabet* by Brad Herzog.

*Home Run: The Story of Babe Ruth* by Robert Burleigh.

*Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man* by David A. Adler.

*Mama Played Baseball* by David A. Adler.

*Players In Pigtails* by Shana Corey.

*Roberto Clemente: Baseball Legend* by Carin T. Ford.

*A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson* by Michelle Y. Green.

### **Classroom Connections**

#### **Rapides School District: Analyzing Non-Fiction**

- Analyzing Non-Fiction <http://www.rapides.k12.la.us/> This is the Rapides Parish School District's web site for parents and teachers. Teachers can click in the yellow rectangular box on Lessons To Go! Next, click Focused Learning Lessons (under English Language Arts Section). Click the English Language Arts link, and the last click will be on Lesson 18 Analyzing Non-Fiction to find a related activity. Lesson 18 requires the use of newspapers to help students focus on non-fiction in everyday life. The last page of *Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen* has a note by the author and a bibliography, which includes several notations of newspaper articles, used in the writing of this non-fiction book. Students could be instructed to use newspaper articles to inspire them to write short non-fiction stories of their own.

### **Language Arts/Writing**

- Invite a baseball coach or player to speak to the class. Write a short report on the talk.
- Research other significant female baseball players.
- Write a newspaper article about an All Girls Professional Baseball Game.
- Make a dictionary of baseball terms.

### **Social Studies**

- Compare women athletes from the 20s, 30s and 40s to the women athletes today.
- Discuss the history of women's athletics through the centuries. What types of sports were acceptable for women to play?

### **Art/Music**

- Sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."
- Design All Girl Professional Baseball Player trading cards.

### **History**

- Locate Chattanooga, Tennessee on a map.
- Since the story took place in 1931, create a timeline of important events in baseball history.
- Have children locate information about other important women throughout history (Rosa Parks, Sally K. Ride, Amelia Earhart and others) and use the facts to write a "NAME" poem.

### **Web Links**

#### **Book, Author, Illustrator**

##### **C. F. Payne**

<http://www.cfpayne.com/>

The illustrator's site includes art that he is selling.

##### **Childrenslit.com - Meet the Authors and Illustrators**

[http://www.childrenslit.com/f\\_marissamoss.htm](http://www.childrenslit.com/f_marissamoss.htm)

Link to a biography on the author Marissa Moss as well as many reviews about the books she has written.

##### **Kidsreads.com – Marissa Moss**

<http://www.kidsreads.com/authors/au-moss-marissa.asp>

This site has a brief biography of the author.

##### **Lithgow Palooza**

[http://palooza.com/books\\_illustrators.html](http://palooza.com/books_illustrators.html)

This site about John Lithgow includes a biography of C.F. Payne, who has illustrated many of Lithgow's children's books.

### **Marissa Moss**

<http://www.marissamoss.com/>

This is the official site for Marissa Moss. It contains information about Moss's books, a biography, and a list of awards.

### **Nancy Keane's Booktalks**

[http://www.nancykeane.com/booktalks/moss\\_mighty.htm](http://www.nancykeane.com/booktalks/moss_mighty.htm)

A "quick and simple" booktalk of *Mighty Jackie* is included on this excellent children's literature site. Nancy Keane's site is a real gold mine of helpful information.

### **Scholastic Book Central**

[http://www.scholastic.com/titles/authors/marissa\\_moss.htm](http://www.scholastic.com/titles/authors/marissa_moss.htm)

Link to a brief article about the Marissa Moss.

## **Baseball**

### **Baseball Almanac: The Official Baseball History Site**

<http://www.baseball-almanac.com>

<http://www.baseball-almanac.com/articles/aubrecht8.shtml>

Includes Fabulous Feats, Famous Firsts, Legendary Lists, Rules and more. The second link will direct to an article about Jackie Mitchell.

### **Baseball-Links.com**

<http://www.baseball-links.com/links/History>

[http://www.baseball-links.com/links/Womens\\_Baseball/](http://www.baseball-links.com/links/Womens_Baseball/)

This site provides information on the history of baseball.

### **Book Nuts Reading Club**

<http://www.booknutsreadingclub.com/sportsstories.html>

The website has lesson plans that deal with civil rights history, women's rights, other books about women athletes, and much more.

### **Exploratorium: The Museum of Science, Art and Human Perception**

[www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)

This site includes fascinating details about a variety of topics.

#### **The Science of Baseball**

[www.exploratorium.edu/baseball/index.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/baseball/index.html)

Facts, trivia, fun, links and books in a kid-friendly format.

#### **The Girls of Summer**

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/baseball/girlsofsummer.html>

Interesting information about the women's baseball league.

### **Funbrain.com – Math Baseball**

<http://www.funbrain.com/math>

Baseball activities to help improve math skills.

## **Jackie Mitchell**

**Exploratorium: The Museum of Science, Art and Human Perception. “The Girls of Summer: Jackie Mitchell”**

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/baseball/mitchell.html>

This terrific site includes details about Jackie Mitchell.

**Jean L. S. Patrick: Children’s Author**

<http://www.jeanpatrick.com/jackielife.htm>

This web site of Patrick, the author of *The Girl Who Struck Out Babe Ruth* includes a biography of Jackie Mitchell and links to information about women in baseball.

**TeacherLink**

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu>

Resources by the Adele and Dale Young Education Technology Center and Utah State University’s College of Education and Human Services. The site includes a searchable database by grade level and subject; teacher resources and lesson plans.

**Jackie Mitchell**

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/champions/JackieMitchell.pdf>

This pdf file includes excellent biographical information about Jackie Mitchell.