

Characters in B&M:

★ Joe Stoshack

Joe is your average 13-year-old boy who loves baseball and collects baseball cards. However, he has an amazing ability that be simply holding an old baseball card in his hand, he can travel back in time to the date on the baseball card. This trip is especially special for Joe because he gets to go back and see his one of his personal heroes, Babe Ruth.

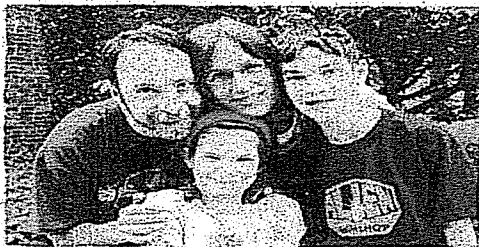
★ Joes father, Bill

Joe's father lives across town in an apartment because he and Joe's mother got a divorce. Joe resents his father and doesn't like the fact that he has to take his father with him on this trip. Bill, on the other hand, just recently lost his job and wants to use his new found free time to travel back in time with his son to see Babe Ruth.

★ Babe Ruth

Babe has an amazing ability to bring people's spirits up in a time period where everyone's lives seemed hopeless (the Great Depression.) He doesn't let taunts from other teams get him down and is the star player for the New York Yankees in the 1930's. He has a special spot in his heart for his fans, which is how Joe and his father come into contact with him.

About the Author:

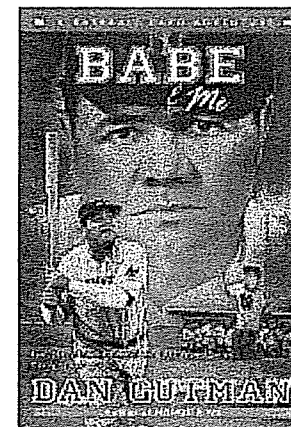


Dan Gutman was born in New York City on October 19, 1955. When he was one years old, his family moved to Newark, New Jersey where he spent most of his childhood. His father left the family in 1968, which was an extremely traumatic event for Mr. Gutman.

Dan graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Psychology in 1977. He tried and did not succeed in graduate school, and ended up moving to New York to try to become a writer. After many failed attempts and rejection letters, Dan got a job working for a computer/video games magazine where he met his wife who was an illustrator.

The magazine went out of business and Dan decided to become a writer, writing several non-fiction baseball books in the late 1980's. It was also at this time he joined a program going to elementary school where he would use sports to encourage kids to read and write. It was through this program that he realized his calling to become a fiction children's book writer.

Babe & Me



by: Dan Gutman
brochure by: Kim Carson

Joe has an amazing gift, just by touching old baseball cards he can go back in time and see his heroes in action and legends come to life!

Book Summary:

Joe has always loved baseball and collecting baseball cards. However, his card collection becomes more than a hobby when he realizes he has an amazing ability to time travel to the date on a baseball card simply by holding it in his hand.

This time, Joe is getting the ability to go and visit with his father his personal hero, Babe Ruth. Together they get to experience life in the 1930's Great Depression era, and see legends come to life as they go to the 1932 World Series, Cubs versus Yankees game where Babe Ruth was rumored to have pointed to where he was going to hit the ball out of the park.

Review of B&M:

A Baseball Hit!

Baseball fans here comes a new hit! Its called Babe and Me and its got baseball, time-travel, and mystery all rolled into one. This novel is about a boy named Joe Stoshack and his Dad. They live in Louisville, Kentucky in the 1990s. This pair are big Babe Ruth fans, and like most other fans, they are DYING to know if he did call his famous home run on October 1, 1932. Unlike others, they have a secret. Joe can travel

to any time on a baseball card by holding the card for 30 seconds! So they travel back to the Depression and watch the famous game.

This novel has a moral too. Joe learns that behind the glory, Babes life isn't perfect like you'd think it would be. He has troubles like any average person.

So if you like baseball, fantasy, or even history, read Babe and Me. Its a novel most baseball fans wont want to miss.

http://www.kids-places.com/Babe_and_Me_A_Baseball_Card_Adventure_0380805049.html



Themes:

- Father/son relationships
- What makes a hero
- Historical portrayal of the 1930's/Great Depression Era
- Sports
- Time Travel
- Legends

Discussion Questions:

- Joe's father talks about wanting to warn people that the Holocaust would be coming. If you had an opportunity to go back in time and change history, what would you change? And if that event did not occur, how would our world today be different?
- If you had the power to go and visit your personal hero, who would you visit and why? What is it about this person that you admire?
- Why do sports heroes and entertainers have so much power in our society? What is it about them that gives people hope?
- How does Joe's perception of his father change throughout the book? What causes him to change his mind about his father? Do you think that he and his dad have a more positive relationship at the end of the book?