

“If You Like Matt Christopher” Student Book Share (Transcript)

Franki Siberson: I always have kids who love Matt Christopher in third and fourth grade. It seems like an author who hooks a lot of boys to books, especially boys, the books that are about sports.

Recently, a ton of books have come out that are about sports by other authors, and I had two boys, ___ and Wills, who discovered those books over the last year and really have grown as readers once they move from Matt Christopher.

They still read Matt Christopher, but they found a lot of other authors and genres about sports that they like, and they had some other boys in the class that were asking them, so they gathered a basket of books that will become part of the library that they wanted to share with those kids, and those kids were looking for other sports books.

Student: Well, last year I started reading Matt Christopher because Wills recommended it to me when he read it, and so I tried it and then we both read, like, 20 books of it. But then this year it kinda got – we finished almost all of them, so I found this book called *Heat*, and it's about this kid, he's a pitcher and he's from Cuba.

He played for a little league team, but then one guy, he's like at their arrivals he said that, like, he needs a certificate because his dad died, like, five months ago, and he keeps lying, saying his dad's in Florida, taking care of his sick cousin.

Then at the end – well, and then he can't play. He sits on the bench. Then so it's just kind of a mystery, because he has to find out if he gets to play after all or if he still has to be on the bench.

Student: I was – hm. Ms. Siberson told me about this series called *The Barnstormers*, and Loren Long came to our school, like, three months ago. I read the first one and after I read the first one it was really good, because it had – like, he didn't illustrate, Loren Long didn't illustrate it, but it has really good illustrations, so.

On the side it helps you explain baseball words and stuff like that. It's not too long, it's not too short, it's like 150-some pages, and there's gonna be nine of them. So it's a good series to get hooked on because you'll be reading it for a long time.

Student: Well, if you like the Matt Christopher book you'll kind of like *Sports Illustrated*. You might, you'll probably want to read this. It's just, like, it's nonfiction, basically. It talks about – it might have a – just talk about a player, or it might just have some fun

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things, like it has something like this, or like the comic cards ____ funny. So if you like Matt Christopher it'll be sports.

Student: ____ stuff that you've been reading ____.

Student: Is it fiction?

Student: And this one is Mike Lupica, which is the same author of *Heat*, the one that __ was talking about. He wrote two of these. There Mike Lupica *Comeback Kids*. The other one, it was about basketball. ____ was called.

Student: *Hot Hand*.

Student: *Hot Hand*, and this one's called *Two-Minute Drill*. It's about football. This kid who's always, like, he's not that good at football, he never wanted to be a football player, but he likes kicking. He has his own goalpost in his backyard and he practices drop-kicks, which is no longer part of football.

He makes friends with the best player on the team and he gets on the team and he helps with homework and all that, so when he gets the kid on the team, he can help the best player with homework, and you have to figure out what happens in the game. It's ____.

Student: ____

Student: Okay, well, if you like Matt Christopher you'll like this book. It's called *We Are the Ship*. It's about Negro League Baseball, before – it's just a nonfiction book, because before only whites could play major league, and they started their own league.

Then it talks about how through the years, how they played, and then the history of it. Then one of my favorite things about it is for each chapter, they have nine chapters and then they have a – they have ten chapters.

Well, for each chapter they have an inning, like a second inning or third inning, and then it, so each inning's a time. So this talks about their life in it.

Then at the end it talks about how they ____ to play with their normal major-leaguers.

[End of Audio]