

Teaching *The Sweet Spot*



Sam is faced with an unexpected challenge when her baseball coach tells her that her attitude is holding her back. Her fight to gain her coach and teammate's respect leads her to face important ideas about herself, her friendships,

and her family relationships. As students read this book they should think about fairness, perseverance, and earning respect.

About the Author

Stacy Barnett Mozer is a middle grade author and an elementary teacher. During her teacher training at NYU she was introduced to the writer's workshop style of teaching writing and started her first writer's notebook. She never expected that would lead her to write "actual books," but every time she gave an assignment to her students, she would do it first. She used her own writing pieces as models in the classroom, enjoying writing in a way she had never remembered experiencing as a child.

When one of her third grade classes challenged the concept of revision, that Stacy became a novelist. The class told her that there was no way a real author who wrote real books could possibly revise their work as much as she asked them to revise. Stacy's been writing and revising her own novels ever since.

Book Stats

Grade Level Equivalent: 3-6 **Ages:** 7-11
Genre: Realistic **Pages:** 214
Themes: Fairness, perseverance, friendship, family relationships

Common Core Standards	Reading and Literature	Writing	Speaking and Listening	Language
Grade 3	3.3, 3.6	3.1, 3.8	3.1	3.3
Grade 4	4.3	4.1, 4.8	4.1	4.3
Grade 5	5.1, 5.6	5.1, 5.8	5.1	5.3

Book Summary

When thirteen-year-old Sam Barrette's baseball coach tells her that her attitude's holding her back, she wants to hit him in the head with a line drive. Why shouldn't she have an attitude? As the only girl playing in the 13U league, she's had to listen to boys and people in the stands screaming things like "Go play softball," all season, just because she's a girl. Her coach barely lets her play, even though she's one of the best hitters on the team.

All stakes now rest on Sam's performance at baseball training camp. But the moment she arrives, miscommunication sets the week up for potential disaster. Placed at the bottom with the weaker players, she will have to work her way up to A league, not only to show Coach that she can be the best team player possible, but to prove to herself that she can hold a bat with the All-Star boys.