

SPORTS STORIES READING LIST

Alexander, Kwame The Crossover F ALE:K

12-year-old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price.

Allen, Peter Our Don Bradman : the Diary of Victor McDonald: Sydney, 1932 F ALL:P

Australia is in the grip of the Great Depression. Victor is crazy about cricket. His father owes money, loses his job and can't find work. But while Victor's family is struggling, he manages to meet his hero, Sir Don Bradman.

Arena, Felice Specky Magee & the Season of Champions F ARE:F

Aussie Rules is Specky's life, he's a star full forward in his school team and one day he wants to play in the AFL. But then a knee problem puts him off the field. Will his team reach the Grand Final without him? And how is he going to impress the talent scout in the crowd if he can't play footy?

Arksey, Neil Playing on the Edge F ARK:N

2064 : In Britain one of the two all-powerful soccer super leagues has bought Easy Linker, a brilliant young footballer. Now he'll be pumped full of performance enhancers to make him a star player. No-one questions what they are doing to young players. But Easy manages to escape and is on the run with evidence that will destroy them - all he has to do is stay free for long enough.

Blythe, Sandy Blythe Spirit 796.3238092 BLY

The story of Sandy Blythe's journey from the depths of despair in his hospital bed, from a car accident, to the elation of co-captaining the Australia men's wheelchair basketball team, which won the gold medal at the Atlanta Paralympics and his aims to do the same in the Sydney Olympics.

Bryant, Howard (ed.) The Best American Sports Writing 2017 796.0973 BES

Triumphantly and painfully, these stories reflect on that journey, asking difficult questions about who we are, as individuals and as a nation: What does it mean when a football player takes a knee during the national anthem, who decides where the remains of an American legend should rest, and how far will people go to reclaim dreams that have long slipped away?

Cattel, Bob Bound For Glory F CAT:B

Glory Gardens C.C. is now in the North County Under Thirteen League, and the pressure is really on. Hooker, as captain, worries that the team won't be able to hold it together: arrogant Clive is always picking fights, Ohbert is still as useless as ever and there are all the usual rows and injuries. But there's also Mack, the new player; the lucky mascot, 'Gatting'; plus the whole team's unwavering determination to win against all the odds.

Cattell, Bob First XI : Eleven Stories of the World of Cricket F CAT:B

Eleven cricket-themed short stories, each set in a different country, including: an old cricketer's funeral in Barbados; the theft of a bat in Barbados; a sweltering day at Lord's.

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Cattell, Bob **Glory in the Cup** **F CAT:B**
Hooker, Azzie, Erica and the rest all play cricket in their spare time, but they've never taken it very seriously. Kiddo, a schoolteacher, suggests they form an official team - and Glory Gardens C.C. is formed. Hooker, as captain, soon finds out that cricket teams weren't built in a day: some players squabble, some can't catch and some have tantrums and go home at half-time!

Chappell, Fiona **Choose to Win : Achieving Your Goals, Fulfilling Your Dreams** **797.2092 ONE:C**
A fascinating insight into one of Australia's greatest swimmers and also essential reading for anyone who faces challenges.

Cornwell, Bernard **Stormchild** **F COR:B**
Tim Blackburn's wife and son died, victims of terrorist attacks. His daughter Nicole disappeared in the North Pacific, swallowed up by an outlawed organisation called Genesis. Blackburn decided to risk everything on a sleek yacht called Stormchild to sail halfway around the world in search of his daughter.

Courtenay, Bruce **The Power of One** **F COU:B**
Also available as an eBook.
Set in South Africa in the 1940s, a young boy struggles to realise his individuality in a society divided by racial hatred and conflict. It is a great story of cruelty, sadness, love and faith, filled with unforgettable characters and told with great compassion and humour.

Ellis, Bob **The Season** **F ELL:B**
A rather grimy behind-the-scenes look at Rugby League - a novel that deals with the League the general public never see, and rarely hear about (thank goodness)!

FitzSimons, Peter;
Growden, Greg **More Important Than Life or Death : Inside the Best Australian Sports** **796.0994 MOR**
(eds.)
The best sports stories written by Australia's best sportswriters uncover the hilarity, triumphs, sadness, excitement and controversy of our sport-mad nation. For years journalists have been eyewitnesses to athletes - from the elite to downtrodden - chasing, achieving or falling short of their dreams.

Gillman, Peter **The Wildest Dream: Mallory: His Life and Conflicting Passions** **796.522 MAL:G**
In 1924 Mallory and his companion Andrew Irvine disappeared during a bid to reach Everest's summit. With the discovery of Mallory's body in 1999, their fate has been partly resolved, but the riddle of whether they succeeded in their attempt to reach the summit still remains a mystery.

Gleitzman, Morris **Extra Time** **F GLE:M**
When 13-year-old Matt is discovered impressing the livestock in an Aussie country town with his remarkable soccer skills, he's offered the chance of a lifetime - a try-out at one of Europe's biggest and most glamorous soccer clubs.

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Moloney, James Dougy **F MOL:J**
"Aborigines get special treatment," some of the angry white people say when Dougy's sister Gracey is picked for the state athletics championships. The championships change everything for Gracey and trigger dramatic events in the town too: black and white relations reach explosion point.

Moloney, James Touch Me **F MOL:J**
For Xavier McLachlan, rugby is life. Winning a First XV jersey means everything... until he meets Nuala Magee. Has there ever been a girl like her? She's feisty, she's troubled, she's dangerous. What will his mates think? Does he even care? Everything looks different now. Xavier McLachlan is in love.

Monk, Scott The Crush **F MOM:S**
Matt is an up-and-coming league star. But despite being a popular team captain and a natural at the game, Matt really wants one thing in life - a dad. There is also another dilemma - a crush on blue-eyed Kelly Sinclair. Drop-dead gorgeous, she already has a boyfriend - who hates Matt's guts and will do anything to destroy his career.

Myers, Walter Dean The Greatest: Muhammad Ali **796.83092 ALI:M**
A riveting portrayal of Ali's spirit and courage. It also exposes the hazards of boxing - the sport Ali lived, but which ultimately damaged him and many others beyond repair. This is the story of Ali's childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battle against Parkinson's disease.

Panckridge, Michael Toby Jones and the Magic Cricket Almanac **F PAN:M**
Toby Jones and his friends are obsessed with cricket. They all play in the Under-13 school team and hang out in their own online cricket chat room after school. While on a school excursion Toby visits the Melbourne Cricket Club Library where he meets fellow cricket buff Jim Oldfield and stumbles upon the secret of the Magic Cricket Almanac.

Panckridge, Michael Toby Jones and the Secret of the Missing Scorecard **F PAN:M**
Toby and his friends return in the sequel to Toby Jones and the Magic Cricket Almanac - a series that combines fantasy and sport. In this book, Toby is now aware of the dangers associated with time travel, but is that enough to stop him from travelling back in time to famous cricket matches of the past?

Panckridge, Michael Toby Jones : Hat Trick **F PAN:M**
Using a copy of Wisden, Toby drops in on the great cricket matches of the past, first in India and then in the West Indies. But at the 1930 Test at Leeds, where Don Bradman makes his legendary 334, Toby gets unexpectedly involved in the match. He and his friends live for cricket, but Toby's ability to travel through time makes him unique.

Peet, Mal Exposure **F PEE:M**
Also available as an eBook.
This is the third "Paul Faustino" novel. A massive soccer star has it all, but someone is plotting his downfall. Revered as a national hero, married to the desirable Desmerelda, cherished by the media, soccer star, Otello, has it all. But a sensational club transfer sparks a media frenzy, and when he is wrongly implicated in a scandal, the footballer's life turns into a tragic spiral of destruction.

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Sillitoe, Alan **The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner** **F SIL:A**
The pop-eyed potbellied governor said to a pop-eyed potbellied Member of Parliament who sat next to his pop-eyed potbellied whore of a wife that I was his only hope for getting the Borstal Blue Ribbon Prize Cup For Long Distance Cross Country Running (All England), which I was, and it set me laughing to myself inside. This brilliant portrayal of the mind of an incorrigible rebel is a modern classic.

Sinclair, Tim **Run** **F SIN:T**
Dee lives for two things: the physical/mental discipline of parkour, and the dystopic scenarios he invents to escape his mundane life. He knows the city better than anyone - the hidden spaces at night, the views that no one else sees, from heights no one else can scale. With parkour, he's not running away. He's just free. But when he's caught up in a frightening conspiracy and the boundaries between fantasy and reality break down, he'll have to run for his life. Run for real. Because just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get you.

Spinelli, Jerry **Maniac McGee** **F SPI:J**
This is a story about a boy, a very excitable boy. He can outrun dogs, hit a home run off the best pitcher in the neighbourhood, tie a knot no one can undo. "Kid's gotta be a maniac," folks say. It's also the story of how this boy, "Maniac" Magee, confronts racism in a small town, tries to find a home where there is none and attempts to soothe tensions between rival factions on the tough side of town.

Starke, Ruth **Nips XI** **F STA:R**
If white boys can't jump, can Asian kids play cricket? Lan's fed up with being called a nip. He wants to be a true-blue Aussie. What better way than by playing the greatest Anglo game of all? Lan gathers a team together and defiantly gives it a name: NIPS XI. Now all they have to do is get some equipment, find a coach, get themselves a sponsor and learn the rules of the game. Then it's time to challenge the best cricket team in the district.

Starke, Ruth **Nips Go National** **F STA:R**
The Nips XI team, together with coach Spinner McGinty, are in Melbourne to compete for the Harmony Cup and Lan has a lot on his mind: a new star batsman with something to hide, a mystery from Spinner's past, conflict with his best mate, Izzy and his fast bowler laid low just before their biggest match ever.

Trueman, Stuart **All the Way Round** **920 TRU:S**
In 2010, Stuart Trueman set out on a 16-month voyage to circumnavigate Australia by kayak. He wasn't the first person to complete the circumnavigation, or even the second - but he was determined to make it a triumphant third. Stuart's adventure was to be done on a shoestring, with no support team and a powerful belief in the philosophy of Do-It-Yourself, albeit with the kindness and help of the many people he met along the way.

Wheeler, Paul **Bodyline: the Novel** **F WHE:P**
Bodyline is the story of the 1932-33 fateful test series between Australia and England. It tells how cricket, once the sport of gentlemen and honourable fair play, was pitched into the realms of war.

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Winton, Tim

Lockie Leonard, Legend

F WIN:T

In the hands of another writer, this story of a mother's mental illness and hospitalisation, and its impact on her family could have been very grim. Yet this novel manages to be both light-hearted and emotionally authentic. Lockie is by turns realistically selfish and heroic.

Winton, Tim

Lockie Leonard, Scumbuster

F WIN:T

Nothing's simple for Lockie Leonard. Dumped by his girlfriend, he's friends with the weirdest human being he's ever met. As if that isn't enough, Lockie decides to save the planet. In the middle of all this the inevitable happens - yes, he falls in love ; he drops like a ton of bricks for a girl who's not even out of primary school yet, and to make it worse she surfs better than he ever will. Total life disaster. If it wasn't so ridiculous a kid would get depressed. Can a thirteen year old surf rat have a head banger for a best mate, stay in love with an eleven year old grommet and still save his town from industrial pollution? Sure. As if!
