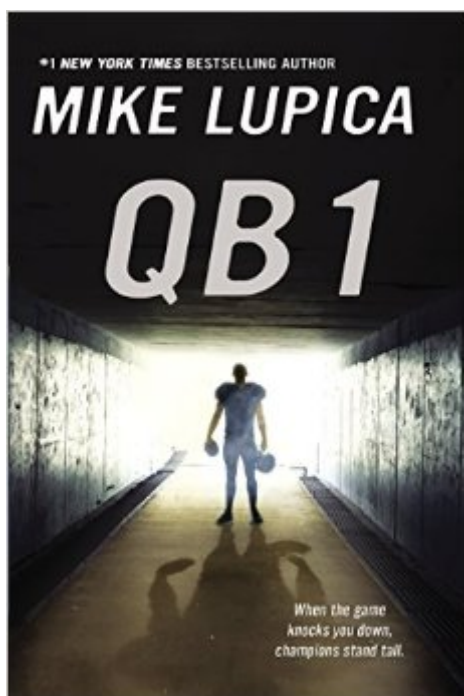


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# QB 1



## Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author of TRAVEL TEAM, HEAT, and MILLION-DOLLAR THROW comes a cheer-worthy, family-friendly football novel set amid the Friday Night Lights world of Texas high school football. Jake Cullen is a freshman quarterback playing high school football in Texas, the high-pressure land of Friday Night Lights. He is also the brother of Wyatt Cullen, who quarterbacked his team to the Texas State Championship last season--not to mention the son of former NFL quarterback and local legend, Troy Cullen. To be a Cullen in Texas is to be football royalty . . . which leaves 14-year-old Jake in a Texas-sized shadow. Being a good teammate comes naturally to Jake; being a winner and a celebrity does not. Jake may be a Cullen, and he may play quarterback, but he is not his brother or his father. He's just like every other kid: fighting for every ounce of respect, awkward around a pretty girl, in awe of his famous family, and desperate to simultaneously blend in and cast his own shadow. Inspired by the real-life Manning family of quarterbacks and set amid the football-crazy culture of Texas, QB 1 is a coming-of-age story perfect for the fan of MILLION-DOLLAR THROW and HEAT.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0990 (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (September 2, 2014)

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (97 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,105 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Football #54 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #101 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Don't let this book fool you. It's not just for guys who like football, it's for anyone who likes a good

story. Mike Lupica always gives me characters to root for and once again, I'm leading the cheers.

If you've followed my reviews at all you know that I have a few great weaknesses. And one of them is sports related books. I am not a huge football fan. In fact, I really only like college football. But turn on my team (go Dukes!) and I am there. I especially like to be in the stands with streamers flying and screaming until I am hoarse. Yep, that is what football is all about for me. So when I saw this one at the library, somehow I found it in my hand and checked out before I even knew what hit me. Yeah, see, since I'm not working I'm TRYING really hard not to spend so much in books. I didn't say I was not buying books at all because that would be very unlike me. What I am doing is being more selective and buying the ones that I know that I want. I am using the library to piece together the books that I think I might like. I gotta tell you. This one? WINNER! As I'm reading the book I flip back to the inside cover and read that it is inspired by the Manning family, Archie, Peyton, and Eli. Yeah, even this non-football loving girl has heard of them. I loved the characters that Lupica builds. Jake is awesome. He is so not confident in the beginning of the book. He has always lived in the shadow of his father and brother. But, by the end, it is beginning to look like he might even be a better QB than his brother. Then there is Wyatt who has always been so amazing and suddenly goes to Texas to play for the Longhorns and learns that maybe he needs to step back a minute or two and take a few lessons from his younger brother. And then there is Troy Cullen, the father of Jake and Wyatt who has as much to learn as both of his sons and the glue that holds them all together, their mom Libbie. The biggest question is will Jake be able to do something that Wyatt didn't, will he be able to take his team to the state championship his freshman year? I have to say, after reading this one, I am actually kind of excited to read more of Lupica's books. I am such a baseball fanatic, that I am thinking to try one of his baseball books next. I will admit to giving it a 4 because I skimmed through some of the technical football jargon. I might as well have been reading another language. But if you have a teenage boy in need of a book report? This would be a great choice. Seriously, this book is awesome for the sport fanatic! I loved this story, and it had just enough other fluff to it to keep me hooked without going overboard!

The TODAY SHOW recommended this book. I like and understand football so decided to give it a try. I'm glad I did. Yes, there is a lot of football. It helps to know the difference between offense, defense, center, tight end and wide receiver. There are many references to Peyton and Eli Manning but there is also a family story behind the football. If you have watched Friday Night Lights, you understand the Texas high school mentality -obsessed. If you are in a family with more than one

child, you understand the childhood dilemma of who the favorite child is. a good easy read.

Source: Received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. I received this unsolicited from the publisher and decided to give it a chance after reading the back cover comparing its "glamour and emotion(s)" to that of the amazing Friday Night Lights. Well that's a pretty big standard so I was intrigued to see if the book could in fact live up to that. I definitely got those comparisons as this book is deeply grounded in small town Texas and its fascination with high school football. The main character in this book is the son of a star high school quarterback and the younger brother of a star high school quarterback who is expected by those stars to live up to the same high standards. However he has some competition for the position of quarterback as well as feelings of inferiority over the fact that his father seems to prefer his brother to him. To start with, the MC's name is Jacob Cullen. Um, what? I don't think the target audience for this book (probably middle-grade to young adult males) will have the same reaction as me but us bloggers might have some feelings about this choice :) The story itself is pretty straightforward covering an entire football season as they pursue glory. An obsession with football is well-documented with radio stations eagerly following the competition to be first-string quarterback and with restaurants offering 50% off after a win-everyone is heavily invested in these boys and their successes (or not) on the gridiron. And that's almost all there is. Plays are described in detail, really too much detail for me but I'd love to see what some football lovers think of it. Personally I would have liked to know more about Jake. Apparently he pulls straight A's but we never see him in class or really doing anything but playing football, feeling things about his relationship with his dad, and angsty over a girl. Jake is a freshman with very clean thoughts about said girl, which is why I estimate that this might be appropriate for a middle-grade audience. I'm used to sport books having more language and sexual thoughts as they target older readers-this one is quite clean though. Overall: A cute enough read but I'm not really the audience for it; I wanted more character depth and less football plays.

I love sports books. I like the drama and the personal challenges. Nevertheless, I love this book; there are some weaknesses: the plot is easy and predictable (on the verge of being unbelievable). The main character is too good to be true. The happy end is too much to bear. The pros are: easy to read, it is a book about baseball, family values, Texas, first love and boys becoming men. Mike Lupica loves high school football. Therefore, the book is exiting to read (even as an European, who is not very familiar with the sport).

I am not the target audience here. I'm a 50 year old woman and I still loved this book. Have recommended it to my two twenty-something sons, and bought it for my football crazed nephews for Christmas. Great book to get young boys who'd rather be out throwing the ball around to read. Dad's and football fans will enjoy it too.

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