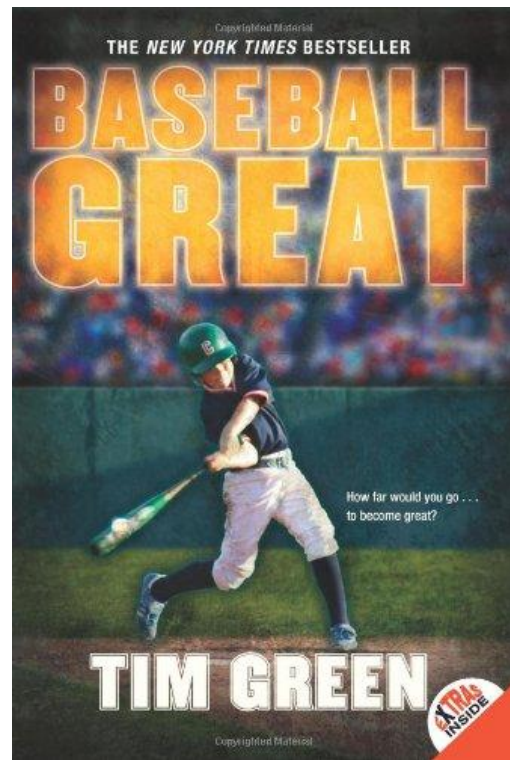


Baseball Great by Tim Green (Harper, 2009)

Twelve year old Josh lives and breathes baseball. While trying out for a championship team Josh is offered “help” that may turn out to be dangerous. Will Josh join some of his teammates in cheating to win?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Josh’s dad insisted that Josh accompany him to the manager’s office to hear about his promotion? How does Josh react to the news?
2. P. 60 Why does Jaden stand up for Josh against the smoking bully Bart Wilson?
3. When Josh comes home from his first practice he is so sore, he can barely stand, and his father gives him anti-inflammatory pill to help ease his sore muscles. His father says – “Medicine is part of sports. The higher you go, the more you have to get used to that. It’s just part of the game. Don’t worry. It’s safe.” What does this tell us about Josh’s dad?
4. P.88 Josh’s father is pushing him to work harder and to make the Titans team, but Josh thinks longingly of just playing for his school’s team and becoming friends with his teammates. Why do you think Josh’s father was so determined for Josh to make it to the big leagues?
5. Jaden is furious with Josh because she says his father is robbing all the good players so he can build a U12 team, do you think she is right to be so mad at Josh?
6. At first the other Titans are hostile toward Josh; they play tricks on him and rough him up. His father gives him this advice – “a team’s a funny thing, you can’t force your way in; you have to let it happen. The biggest thing you can do is play well. You’ll see. Everything will change. Everybody loves a winner.” What do you think of this advice?
7. P 128 Josh’s mother says to Josh – “All this baseball is fine, but you need to do well in school. That’s what matters.” How does she differ from Josh’s father?
8. After Tucker gives Josh the “gym candy” why does Josh go directly to Jaden’s house? When Jaden discovers that the pills are anabolic steroids, Josh is so worried that he could



ruin his father's career chances with Rocky that he convinces Jaden not to go to the police. Do you think they made the right choice?

9. After Rocky is captured Jaden makes a decision to tell the police the truth about the drugs even though it could mean her father's career? Why did she decide to tell the police the truth?
10. P. 196 Jaden says there are more than half a million kids on steroids in this country. Why do people like Rocky give steroids to the team if it is against the law?
11. In the end Josh is playing for his father's winning team and the Nike deal goes through – What is your opinion of the ending?

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