



The Unwilling Umpire

Ron Roy

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The whole town turns out to watch the Green Lawn women challenge the men and to see Mr. Pocket's prized baseball collection. But during the game, the balls are stolen. The police suspect the umpire. Can Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose prove he's innocent? Illustrations.

The Unwilling Umpire Details

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Author : Ron Roy

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From Reader Review The Unwilling Umpire for online ebook

Cyrus says

I like these books because they involve three kids who figure out who stole some things. The kids in this book need to figure out who stole the Babe Ruth signed ball.

Melissa Namba says

as always, consistent characters and fun plot line. this time there is a lesson about lying to protect someone else. this is one of the better ones because the kids only do things normal kids can do and don't have ridiculous freedoms, resources, and safety.

Blue says

Did the police officer just leave children alone and unattended with a confessed criminal? Well, I suppose this is the same police force/officer that failed to consider looking for the stolen items being sold off.

Gabriel says

This is one of my favorite books in the series. I like books using sports in their story. If you like sports and series books than I suggest this book and the entire A to Z Mysteries.

Danielle Purlee says

This book is a mystery for 2nd to 4th graders. One cool feature about this book is that it has the kids problem solving to figure out the mystery.

Deepthi Herga says

My 7 - year old has finished the entire set of the A to Z mysteries (including all the super editions). I started reading them because I wanted to find out how good these mysteries are and after I started, I finished the entire set myself. This will be a common review for all the books in the set (so please forgive me if you see this repeated under another book).

First of all, the mystery part of the book is fairly simple for an adult, but I can see how it can keep a kid engrossed. The characters are playful, around the same age as my kid now, so are very relatable. Yes, there are some characteristics which can be a little irritating, but they didn't really bother me too much as to take

away from the stories. The other con is that these little kids are left unmonitored in many of their adventures (I am not a helicopter parent, but it felt a little strange, especially when they are out of the country altogether).

That being said, now what I loved about the stories -

- 1) Most of the stories are based in different cities, and sometimes different countries, so the travel perspective is amazing. We, as a family, love to travel and every time the kids in the books traveled somewhere it made the story more exciting to me (as well as my kid). My kid had comments on how they went to Key West and later Washington D.C "just like us".
- 2) There are strong characters of both genders, the villains are of different genders as well, so the stereotyping is considerably less (there was a female pilot in one of the books that stood out to me) and I love it that girls reading the books have some good role models. I would always like more female strong characters shown ofcourse :).

I'm sure my kids will be enjoying many more of the author's books in the future :)

Brenda Wharton says

A-Z mystery series. Story about a ball game being cancelled because the baseballs are stolen. Pete says he stole the balls, but they don't really believe it was him and search for the person who really stole the baseballs

Tara says

Another fun mystery. And this one even incorporated internet shopping. I think these kids are great.

Rithvik says

This book was really good! Mainly because Dink, Josh, Ruth Rose, and Pete's brother all try to defend Pete from staying in jail for a long time.

Carter Sievers says

I loved this book. This totally caught me off guard. I can't believe this person stole the baseball.

Aminata Fofana says

There is a baseball game in green lawn to support the helpless kids. At the game the signed baseballs of

mr.pocket a vulunteer goes missing! Dink,Josh, and Ruth Rose must use the mystery solving talents to find the answer before an innocent man is locked up for LIFE. What they find out about pete "the thief" is more interesting than they thought... They team up with the smartest community members to solve this heart rising mystery that depends on life and death for one man! The chief officer, the librarian and the four kids including buddy (pete's brother)head into the dangerous world of internet to find the truth!

Jason Pettus says

(Don't forget my kid-lit blog as well; it's at <http://kidlit4adults.blogspot.com> .)

A friend has convinced me to try my hand this year at writing children's literature; but I don't actually know anything about children's literature, so am starting the process simply by reading a large selection of titles that have been recommended to me. I've been told that these, the "A to Z Mysteries" by Ron Roy (a 26-book series, each named after a different letter in the alphabet) are among the most popular "chapter books" these days among the elementary-school readers they're designed for (so in other words, aged roughly 7 to 10); and indeed, after reading three of them myself (U, X and Y), I can see that they touch on nearly every piece of advice I've now been given regarding writing for this age group, including a strong sense of humor, a quickly-paced but not too complicated storyline, lots of action and mystery, many scenes set in a school environment, and sentences that average around ten words. (Note, however, that these books *don't* adhere to one piece of advice I've been given, to concentrate on the ways that boys and girls interact at that age; although the three-person team of friends at the center of our tales is co-ed, they essentially all act the same, and eschew relationships with other children mostly to instead interrogate adults regarding the latest mystery they're trying to solve.) In fact, I was surprised by just how old-fashioned and even fuddy-duddy these stories sometimes are, given their immense popularity, happy proof that you don't nearly need to know about all the latest children's fads in order to write books that will appeal to them; they take place in a small middle-class pedestrian-oriented "Leave It To Beaver"-esque town where even cellphones barely exist, and except for a few references to the internet could easily be mistaken for the chapter books from the 1950s and '60s that I grew up on.

As is typical for this age group, the "mystery" behind each story is pretty easily solvable, and is used mostly as an excuse to teach the rational problem-solving process of observation, interviews, and logical deduction; and as is typical of many authors for this age group, Roy often uses these stories to emphasize non-controversial moral lessons (i.e. "Lying is bad"), and also I think does an admirable job at adding as much diversity as possible to his admittedly white-bread environment. Each book is around 10,000 words altogether, broken into a dozen or so chapters, and contains dozens of illustrations* by John Steven Gurney.

*And P.S., not that this matters, but there was an aspect of these books that re-awakened an old complaint of mine from when I was in grade school and actually reading such books myself -- namely, the fact that the covers are done in a lush, full-color, photorealistic style, while the interior illustrations are monotonously cartoonish to the level of a typical newspaper comic strip, something I always considered a "bait & switch" scam when I was an actual kid. Although I could care less as a grown-up (and indeed, as a grown-up now understand why such a thing is done in the first place), I found it funny that these books could make a long-forgotten thirty-year-old memory re-emerge like that so profoundly.

Hyacinth says

This is an early elementary school chapter book. There is baseball game at the local school to raise money. Mr. Thaddeus Pocket, the head coach, had some famous autographed baseballs that same up missing during the game. A group of kids: Josh, DInk, Ruth Rose help the police find the culprit. The story was focused and short. A cute little quick read.

Lilly says

When you are in Green Lawn people are usually friendly until someone steals something. In Ron Roy's book, the unwilling umpire someone steals a necklace while people in green lawn play a game of baseball. The first thing that is good about this book is the way that the author says the words. It makes whoever reading the book feel like they are actually in the book. The second thing that is good about this book is how much mystery there is. Every time you turn the page there is more excitement. The third thing that is good about this book is how the book makes you want to finish the book in one day. In conclusion the book is amazing especially when someone wants to have a good mystery book.

Libby Manship says

The boys and I enjoyed trying to solve this mystery with our bed time reading! A great pick for baseball season! We are left a little curious by the ending and the culprit, but we will give it 4 Stars for stumping us and keeping us guessing.
