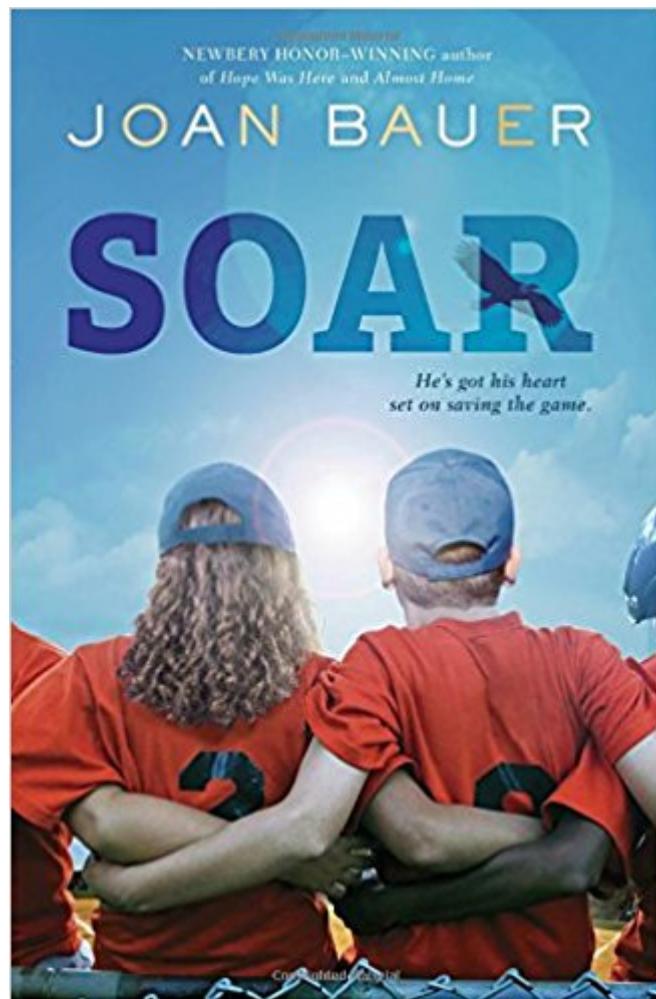


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# Soar



## Synopsis

Newbery Honor winner Joan Bauer hits a home run with her newest protagonist, who always sees the positive side of any situation. Jeremiah is not one to let anything keep him down. Starting with his adoption by computer genius Walt, Jeremiah has looked on his life as a series of lucky breaks. When a weak heart keeps him from playing his beloved baseball, Jeremiah appoints himself the team coach. When Walt has to move for another new assignment, Jeremiah sees it as a great chance to explore a new town. But no sooner do they arrive than a doping scandal is revealed and the town feels betrayed and disgraced. Jeremiah takes it as his personal mission to restore the town's morale and help the teams bounce back and remember how to soar. Full of humor, heart, and baseball lore, Soar is Joan Bauer at her best.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0510 (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Dgs Rep edition (January 3, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0147513154

ISBN-13: 978-0147513151

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,812 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption #9 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #9 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 •Sports, friendship, tragedy, and a love connection are all wrapped up in one heartwarming, page-turning story. Jeremiah lives and breathes baseball and wants nothing more than to be a professional player, but when he learns that he suffers from a severe heart condition, his dreams are put on hold. Soon after he and his single father move to a town that is something of a baseball capital, the entire community is shaken by the death of a beloved school

baseball player— and a town scandal that is revealed in the aftermath. Jeremiah finds himself coaching and bringing baseball back to the local middle school and ends up motivating the entire town. When he and his father are faced with having to leave their new town behind, Jeremiah has to deal with the possibility of also leaving his heart in the very place that helped to make it stronger. This coming-of-age tale features a boy who is courageous and witty; readers—baseball fans or otherwise—will cheer on Jeremiah and this team. VERDICT The latest middle grade novel from this award-winning author is triumphant and moving. —Nikitia Wilson, Convent of the Sacred Heart School Library, New York City --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Praise for Soar:<sup>\*</sup> "Jeremiah's voice is perfect: plucky, vulnerable, pragmatic, smart, and immensely endearing. Bauer masterfully manages the various plotlines. . . An outstanding, tender exploration of courage and the true nature of heroism and, for good measure, a fine homage to America's game, as well." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Bauer's latest feel-good novel is distinguished by a largehearted warmth, its able characterizations, a page-turning plot, and winning humor." —Booklist, starred review "Sports, friendship, tragedy, and a love connection are all wrapped up in one heartwarming, page-turning story. . ." —This coming-of-age tale features a boy who is courageous and witty; readers—baseball fans or otherwise—will cheer on Jeremiah and this team. The latest middle grade novel from this award-winning author is triumphant and moving." —School Library Journal "Jeremiah's enthusiasm for baseball is infectious, and he plays a major role in rebuilding and coaching a team at the middle school while lifting the sagging spirits of community members. . . Readers will feel that Jeremiah's victories are well earned and deserved." —Publishers Weekly "This is not the predictable baseball-as-metaphor-for-life offering it seems but rather a character study in resilience and a tender evocation of a father-son relationship. 'Tender,' however, is not code for 'slow' or 'dull'; Jeremiah is a wry and witty narrator, and his take-charge (but sensible) approach to life impels the story along at a brisk clip." —BCCB Praise for Joan Bauer's *Tell Me*: "Bauer establishes a multi-faceted plot combining crime drama with a modern coming of age story. Anna's voice rings clear through first-person narration, allowing readers to sing, cry, and smell the flowers along with the protagonist. Short chapters and smart dialogue keep the pace moving. Ultimately, Bauer twists the widespread divorce issue into a lesson on empathy, inviting readers to keep their minds and eyes alert to worlds other than their own." —School Library Journal "In this novel filled with comedy and drama. . . Bauer skillfully weaves subplots together as Rosemont citizens (and Anna's parents) rise to the challenge of solving the mystery."

•Publishers Weekly "There are numerous, valuable messages for readers here: pay attention, trust your instincts, and speak up; sometimes being brave is about small, uncertain steps that we take; and helping others helps us, too. Humor and hope are balanced throughout, making this a good recommendation for those who prefer a serious topic treated with a less heavy hand and a happy ending." •VOYA "Bauer manages the difficult feat of folding the topic of human trafficking into a middle-grade novel about daily-life family and peer struggles; in fact, Anna's conviction that the missing girl matters is part and parcel of her character throughout, as she similarly commits whole-heartedly to her acting efforts and beloved friends. . . Readers will appreciate the story for Bauer's classic and relatable heroine who pursues her goal through adversity." •BCCB "Bauer has done an exceptional job of informing young readers about human trafficking without being heavy-handed or speaking down to her audience." •LMCClose to Famous: A Winner of the ALA Schneider Family Book Award, Christopher Award, Judy Lopez Memorial Prize, An Top A Ten Middle Grade Book, a YALSA/ALA A Best Fiction A for Young Adults pick; A Hope Was Here: A Newbery Honor Book, Christopher Award, ALA Notable Book; A Rules of the Road: A Los Angeles Times Book Prize, Golden Kite Award, ALA Notable Book, Best Book for Young Adults.

great read in general, but particularly good for anyone who has a disabled child. the pure optimistic attitude was transforming

My eleven year old son is loving the book so far! He said the book is well rounded, a great mixture of highs and lows with humor. He enjoys updating me every time he reads a chapter.

I really liked this book. It is a sweet story about a boy who is adopted and his father. The two have a "non-traditional family" in that the father finds the baby boy at work, where the boy's mother also worked and left the boy to be found and taken care of. The father and son have a great relationship. Any lover of baseball will love this book! It is set in the Midwest, so it is also a good fit for students in grades 3-5 who are studying the Midwest region of the US. This book also deals with the son's medical challenges, and he uses his challenges to study baseball to be a coach/manager since he cannot play himself. Spoiler alert: at the end of the story, there is a very small part - I think it is only one sentence - about the fiancee not wanting the robot to be in the bedrooms. This was disappointing to me because it seemed to indicate that the fiancee was using the bedroom when she visited. This is tricky because now I can't recommend this title to teachers in religious schools. I

have to admit that I was looking for these kinds of things while I read since I do recommend books regularly for teachers in religious schools. So if this minor part of the book bothers you, be aware.

Summary: Jeremiah has been through more than his share of difficulties, starting when he was abandoned by his mother at the age of nine months and continuing through a series of heart problems that ultimately resulted in him needing a transplant. Lucky for him, his mother left him in an office building where he was discovered by nerdy but loving Walter, who adopted him and has been by his side ever since. Jeremiah's greatest love is baseball, but his heart hasn't gotten healthy enough for him to play. When Walter and Jeremiah move to Hillcrest, Ohio, they look forward to cheering on the town's championship baseball team. Within days of their arrival, though, scandal has swept through the town, shutting down the team. When Jeremiah discovers a few kids at his middle school who still love to play, he gets the idea to become their coach. Step by inching step, the kids work together to build a middle school team and to repair the damage done to Hillcrest. With Jeremiah leading them on, the Hillcrest Eagles prove there's more than one way to have a winning team, and what a person lacks in talent, he can make up for with heart. Pros: "You're weird but I like you," says one of Jeremiah's teammates, perfectly capturing Jeremiah's voice as he narrates this story. Quirky, humorous, and refusing to be kept down, Jeremiah gives the people of Hillcrest and the readers of *Soar* plenty to cheer about. Cons: Occasionally Jeremiah seems a bit too wise and mature for a sixth-grader.

*SOAR* by Joan Bauer tells the powerful story of a heart transplant survivor who becomes an amazing baseball coach. Although Jeremiah isn't allowed to run because of his heart transplant, he hasn't given up his baseball dreams. Instead, he decides to turn his middle school baseball team into champions. Along the way, he connects with a neighbor and brings a town alive. Librarians will find this heart-warming story to be a great addition to the library's realistic fiction collection. Books about sports are always popular with boys, but this title crosses boundaries and its likely to inspire a wide range of readers. The focus on coaching rather than playing baseball provides a unique perspective. The robotics, steroids, and adoption subplots provide a bonus that will appeal to some youth. Keep in mind that this title also fits well with the growing number of books exploring ways youth are overcoming disabilities. To learn more about the author, go to [...] Published by Viking Books for Young Readers, an imprint of

Penguin. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

A very funny and uplifting story about a young man's struggles with a grave heart condition and his passion for the great game of baseball. Great novel for young and old alike.

Gift for my grandson who enjoyed reading it on his trip home to Florida.

Perfect book for a boy!

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