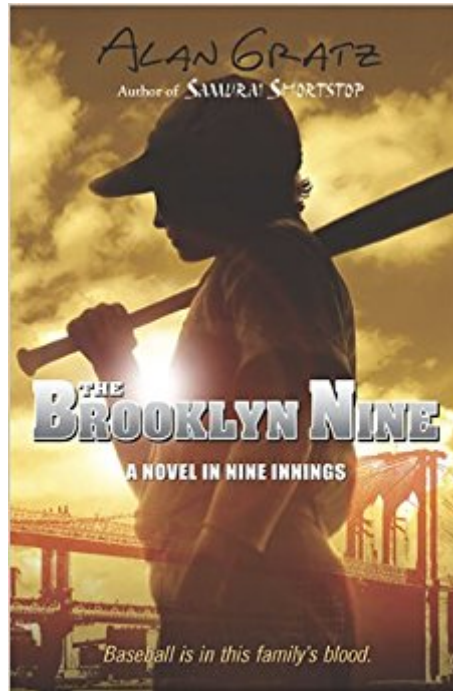




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# The Brooklyn Nine



## Synopsis

Baseball is in the Schneider family blood. Each member of this family, from family founder Felix Schneider in the 1800s to Snider Flint in the present day, has a strong tie to the game and to Brooklyn. Through the years this family has dodged bullets on a battlefield, pitched perfect games, and dealt with the devastating loss of family and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Nine innings? nine generations. One game? one family. Through it all, one thing remains true: the bonds of family are as strong as a love of the game.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10 • In loosely connected chapters, Gratz examines how one Brooklyn family is affected by the game of baseball. Ten-year-old German immigrant Felix Schneider arrives in America in the mid-19th century and uses his speed to good advantage both on the ball field and as a runner delivering the goods his uncle, a cloth cutter, produces. His fortunes and his family's take a turn for the worse, however, when his legs are badly injured in the great Manhattan fire of 1845 (where he encounters volunteer firefighter Alexander Cartwright, the father of modern baseball). Subsequent "innings" deal with Felix's son, Louis, who has compassion for a Confederate soldier because of their shared love of baseball; Walter Snider, a Brooklyn Superbas batboy who

secures a tryout for legendary Negro Leagues star Cyclone Joe Williams and discovers the ugliness of anti-Semitism and racial prejudice; and Jimmy Flint, a 10-year-old in 1957, who worries about the class bully, Sputnik, nuclear annihilation and the Dodgers leaving Brooklyn. Curiously, the author passes over the team's glory years from the late 1940s to the mid-'50s. For the working-class Schneider/Snider family, baseball is an important part of their history, but it does little to mitigate the gritty reality of their lives. Economic uncertainty, prejudice, and the threat of violence are ever-present concerns, and the accurate, tough-minded depiction of these issues is the novel's greatest strength. --Richard Luzer, Fair Haven Union High School, VT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gratz (Samurai Shortstop, 2006) builds this novel upon a clever enough conceit—nine stories (or innings), each following the successive generations in a single family, linked by baseball and Brooklyn—and executes it with polish and precision. In the opening stories, there is something Scorsese-like (albeit with the focus on players, not gangsters) in Gratz's treatment of early New York: a fleet-footed German immigrant helps Alexander Cartwright (credited with creating modern baseball) during a massive 1845 factory fire; a young boy meets his hero, the great King Kelly, who by age 30 is a washed-up alcoholic scraping by as a vaudeville act. The pace lags a bit in the middle innings, where a talented young girl stars in the WW II-era All-American Girls Baseball League and a card-collecting boy lives in fear of the Russians, Sputnik, and the atomic bomb. But the final two stories provide a flurry of late-inning heroics: a Little League pitcher's shot at a perfect game told with breathtaking verve; and a neat stitching-together effort to close the book. Each of the stories are outfitted with wide-ranging themes and characters that easily warrant more spacious confines, but taken together they present a sweeping diaspora of Americana, tracking the changes in a family through the generations, in society at large for more than a century and a half, and, not least, in that quintessential American pastime. Grades 5-8. --Ian Chipman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love, "The Brooklyn Nine." I bought it on because someone suggested it to me. You see, I too write, and baseball is my chosen subject. I can't compare my book to yours except to say that it deals with baseball as it was once played. I remember Sandy's perfect game, and when Jackie Robinson came to Wrigley

Field for the first time and when the Dodgers left Brooklyn. I was not a Dodger fan, and in fact gloried any time my Cubs managed to hand them their butts. I remember like it was yesterday, seeing that demolition ball painted like a baseball as it crashed into the hallowed walls of Ebbets Field. It was a sad day and I have never totally forgiven the traitors who moved West. I also recall the worst trade in baseball history when the Cubs gave my boyhood hero, the late, great Andy Pafko, for dead-armed catcher Bruce Edwards and unsteady Eddie Mixes. But back to the book; I think it's a textbook, a history book, and a great read for any kid who likes baseball but isn't that keen on history. I read it in two sittings and now it will be in my young grandson's bookcase alongside of my novel, *Weren't Always a Pitcher*. Reading this book gave me the same impression folks seemed to have about my book; it's very easy to tell that the author knows and loves the game.

**Summary:** This book is written in the third person and follows a Brooklyn family's love of baseball through nine generations. Each of the nine innings represents a generation and captures the historical issues of that time period. From Felix Schneider arriving in New York as an immigrant from Germany in 1845 to Snider Flint tracking down the history of a bat belonging to a baseball great in 2002, the reader is taken on a wonderful ride through time. The book touches on a variety of historical events such as the Civil War, the All-American Girls Baseball League, and Sputnik. Themes such as prejudice and poverty are threaded throughout the book as well. **My Reaction:** I absolutely loved the format of this book! It was so creative to make each chapter a new generation! The characters in each inning varied from a 10 year old boy, to a Union soldier, to a female baseball star...to many more! I really enjoyed the unique perspective each character brought to the story. The author was able to connect significant events from beginning to end, making this novel a creative masterpiece! Great for both girls and boys! This is one of my favorite books of all time!

I thought that the book "Brooklyn Nine" by Alan Gatz was awesome! It is about special baseball items that travel from person to person. This book is full of adventure and plenty of surprises! I recommend this book to people who love historical adventure stories, or people who like baseball. If you do not understand baseball that much, that is okay. It will still make sense. I gave the Book a five star review, because I REALLY enjoyed it! It was action packed and full of fun!!!  
NUMBER OF PAGES-299  
AUTHOR-ALAN GRATZ  
TITLE-BROOKLYN NINE

What an interesting way to tell a story. My fourth grade students enjoyed the book. As a teacher, I felt that the characters and stories were underdeveloped. The story is told in 9 generations of baseball playing family. Each 'inning' felt like I was only getting a small taste of a story.

This is a great book! I read it with my 8th graders and then my 5th grade son borrowed it from one of the other teachers and read it in three days. He then asked for his own copy of it for Christmas and has read it twice again already. Definitely an enjoyable book for all!

I read this on my sons insistence. This book weaves the history of the country through different eyes, mostly through baseball. This is not a baseball book, yet it is there for the taking. This was one of the most fun books I have read in a long time. A baseball fan would love how the game weaves through the lives of all the characters with enough non baseball life in the story to keep the non-fan engaged. The 2nd through the 4th inning is by far my favorite sections, but overall this is a great summer read for anyone aged 10-95. While not a scholar the language used seemed period accurate and the story never lost its flow. Need something light that will take you deeper, take a swing with this one.

I have to admit that one of the only things I know about baseball is that there is no better hot dog on Earth than one eaten in the sunny bleachers of Wrigley Field. But even with my limited knowledge of the sport, I can appreciate the nine stories ("innings") of "The Brooklyn Nine." This novel has it all - humorous stories, like the feisty girl who takes on the local mafioso; heart-wrenching moments, like the boy who realizes his hero isn't what he thought he was; and a sit-on-the-edge-of-your-seat story following a pitcher as he attempts to throw a perfect game. The historical details are the icing on the cake. A wonderful read!

Even if you are not a baseball fan this is a great book. It is fiction, but includes real people and events. I found myself researching the people they talked about in the book and I was surprised most were real people. This is also where I learned about the origins of the song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame..."

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