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# Rookie Of The Year (Rip And Red)



## Synopsis

Combining fast-paced action for young readers and fresh, humorous takes on school issues for teachers, this installment in the Rip and Red series is an illustrated chapter book that both audiences will love. Just when they think they've got the hang of things, Rip and Red find that fifth grade continues to challenge them in head-spinning ways. Tiki, a new girl whose Egyptian dad is an animal-rights activist, has just joined their class. She's charismatic, funny, and she's got game! Rip has his world turned upside down as Tiki proves to be tough competition on the Clifton United basketball team and leads a rebellion against the lousy new food service in the school cafeteria. Red is a kid on the autism spectrum who is struggling with the upheavals as well. But as these two funky and funny best friends discover, sometimes radical change is the right move, on the court and off. Phil Bildner and Tim Probert return to the Rip and Red series that started with *A Whole New Ballgame* in a sequel that is just as fun and entertaining as the first book, *Rookie of the Year*. This title has Common Core connections. Titles in the Rip and Red series: *A Whole New Ballgame*, *Rookie of the Year*, *Tournament of Champions*

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550 (What's this?)

Series: Rip and Red (Book 2)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (June 6, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250115183

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #111,471 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball #178 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #1147 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 • In this sequel, readers return to fifth grade with Red (a red-haired boy on the autism spectrum) and his best friend Rip (an African American boy with dreadlocks) and their friends and classmates. Red and Rip continue to love and play basketball and are on the team coached by their teacher Mr. Acevedo. Those new to the series will get enough details and will be completely engaged in the shot-by-shot descriptions of basketball games. Added to the class is a new student, Takara (Tiki). Tiki is that student who loves to be involved in everything. One of her best quirks is inventing new words. Tiki is also an excellent basketball player. Rip has a run-in with Coach Acevedo when he puts Tiki into the first team out each game and leaves Rip for the second. Rip is hurt and angry, but only time and experience on the basketball court will bring Rip to an understanding. The secondary part of the plot is the plan, by the class, to get rid of the new lunch ladies and bring back the Lunch Bunch and their better meals. It includes mounting a GoPro camera on the back of classmate Avery's wheelchair. As in the first title, there are no surprises, but that doesn't prevent this from being a great read. VERDICT This fast, fun read featuring characters who love books as much as basketball will appeal to sports fans and nonathletes alike. • Susan Lissim, Dwight School, New York City --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

• “This fast, fun read featuring characters who love books as much as basketball will appeal to sports fans and nonathletes alike.” • “A diverse cast of characters highlights this good-natured, high-spirited slice of life.” • Kirkus Reviews

My 10 year old loves this series. Its so difficult to find kids books with main characters with African American boys as main characters, instead of in the usual sidekick role. He also relates to the other primary character, who is autistic. Great work, Phil Bildner!

Great book that also includes a very diverse cast. A great story of friendship and your boys and girls who love sports will love this book!

My eight year old really enjoys this series of books.

My son finished this right away! Kept him engaged...

I first came across Phil Bildner's Rip and Red in their first book - A Whole New Ballgame - a few

months ago and immediately wanted to read *Rookie of the Year*, the second book in the series. It's hard to categorize the books in this series as they're supposedly intended for readers aged 8 through 12 but they're so good that anyone of any age can read them and be thoroughly engaged by them. Rip and Red are best friends. Rip's real name is Mason Irving but everyone calls him by his basketball nickname, Rip. Everyone except Red, that is, who calls him Mason Irving. Because Red calls everyone by their first \_and\_ last names, always - one of a number of odd quirks he seems to have. Red's real name is Blake Daniels. His nickname stems from his thick red hair. In *A Whole New Ballgame*, Rip and Red were starting the fifth grade at Reese Jones Elementary. And finding that a lot of things were changing at their school, starting with their homeroom teacher, Mr. Acevedo, a brand-new teacher at their school with a very different approach to teaching than the teachers they'd been used to. It turned out that Mr. Acevedo was also the new basketball coach. Which turned out to be a really good thing when Mr. Acevedo made it possible for Red to join the team, giving the boys their first chance to play basketball - real basketball - together. In *Rookie of the Year*, more changes are in store for Rip and Red. Because of budget cuts, the school's lunch servers - affectionately referred to by all of the students as the Lunch Bunch - have been replaced by a crew from a different provider and the quality of the food has taken a serious hit. But a much bigger challenge for Rip is the arrival of a transfer student named Tiki, who's not only charismatic and funny, she's also a demon on the basketball court. And for the first time Rip is facing serious competition for the role of Reese Jones Elementary's star player. The story is once again told solely from Rip's point of view, but Rip is a very good observer and Bildner gives Rip an engaging narrative voice, as you can see in this scene where he's describing the end of the basketball team's first practice of the season:-- "Let's circle up," Coach Acevedo said, standing at midcourt after the final drill. "Hustle on over."-- No one hustled on over. There was no hustling left to be had. We staggered to midcourt. Max and Maya lay down. Then Jeffrey lay down between them. Then the rest of the team dropped. Except for Red, but only because Red doesn't sit on floors. We'd run more at this practice than we had at all the practices last season combined.-- "Wow." Coach Acevedo laughed. "So much for circling up in a huddle." He clapped and pointed to the stage. "Let's go have a seat up there."-- We zombie-walked to the end of the gym, but not everyone made it onto the stage. Max and Jeffrey dropped to the court again. Dyland and Chris sat down beside them.-- I sat next to Red, who leaned over the front of the stage. Tiki was on his left.-- "Clifton United is going to be in better shape than every other team," Coach Acevedo said. "Conditioning is our key. We're going to run our opponents off the court."-- I pounded the stage. "I like the way that sounds!"-- "Conditioning takes time," Coach Acevedo said. "Getting in shape is a process. Rome wasn't built in

a day."...-- I brushed the locks off my forehead and looked away. In a matter of hours, Tiki had taken over my table in class, taken over my booth in the cafeteria, and now she was taking over basketball. There is a lot to like about Bildner's approach to these books. His characters are very real and the challenges they face are real ones that many young readers can easily identify with. An additional plus in this series are the illustrations by Tim Probert, who also did the illustrations for Kim Baker's *Pickle: The (Formerly) Anonymous Prank Club of Fountain Point Middle School*. Probert wonderfully captures a lot of moments in *Rookie of the Year*, giving additional depth to the characters and the situations they find themselves in through their facial expressions, body language and the world of the 5th grade that the story takes place in. Highly, highly recommended for anyone who loves a well-told story of best friends, basketball, fifth grade and the challenges kids that age can face.

My son came home for school today talking about how much he loved this book. I have never seen him so excited to find a book he enjoyed reading. Thank you!

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