



***A High Five for Glenn Burke* by Phil Bildner**

Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2020

ISBN: 9781250763280 (Trade Paperback)

*Age Range: 10-13 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 5-7 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

When sixth grader Silas Walker does a school presentation on former Major League Baseball player Glenn Burke, it's more than just a report on the inventor of the high five. Burke was a black gay baseball player in the 1970s—and for Silas, the presentation is his own first baby step toward coming out as gay.

Soon he tells his best friend Zoey, but the longer he keeps his secret from his baseball teammates, the more he suspects they know something's up. Kids get pulled from the team, fingers point at Silas, and he stages one big cover-up with terrible consequences. Was it a mistake to share his truth?

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "The story. . . speaks to the importance of creating a welcoming community—whether on a baseball field or in a classroom—that embraces differences with not only tolerance but also complete and unrelenting support. An essential book for all readers, not just baseball fans, about friendship, acceptance, and self-confidence."

—[Booklist](#), **starred review**

"Beleaguered tolerance strikes out; loud, proud love wins the game." —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

"[A] compassionate, well-written story." —[School Library Journal](#)

"Silas is an engaging narrator, slipping easily and honestly between accounts of his public bravado, his understandable trepidation of worst-case scenario fallout, and his private adoption of a role model in Burke, who both represents Silas' dilemma and cries out for vindication. Bildner's closing acknowledgments disclose that Silas' struggle was also his own, tacitly reassuring readers that, yep, things actually can get better." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"In giving Burke a place to shine, this book is worthy of several high fives, forearm bashes, chest bumps, daps, and any other celebrations baseball players invent as the game continues to advance." —[OutSports.com](#)

"I highly recommend *A High Five for Glenn Burke* by Phil Bildner, a terrific fictional story invoking the outfielder from the 1970s who wound up being a trailblazer." —Ken Davidoff, *New York Post*

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“Silas is a realistic middle-grade hero—a baseball-obsessed kid trying to find his place in the world. Readers will love him, just as I do.” —Erin Entrada Kelly, Newbery Medal-winning author of *Hello, Universe*

“A home run of a middle grade novel—a crackerjack story about the love and acceptance that everyone deserves.”
—Laurie Halse Anderson, author of *Speak*

“Fires a fastball over the center of the plate and into the hearts of readers. As necessary as it is fun.” —C. Alexander London, author of the Dog Tags series and the Skybound Saga

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2021 Lambda Literary Award - Nominee
- 2020 NYPL Best Books of the Year
- A Spring 2020 Junior Library Guild Selection
- A 2021 NCTE Charlotte Huck Award Honor Book
- A Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2020
- A 2021 ALA Rainbow Book
- A Bank Street Best Book of 2021

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [NPR: These 3 Books Are Perfect For Your Back-To-Middle-Schooler](#)
- [Today.com: 22 Beautiful and Inclusive Kids' Books for Pride Month](#)
- [Super Summary: Chapter 1-10 Breakdown](#)
- [LGBTQ Reads: Author interview](#)
- [Book trailer](#)
- [Bethlehem Central Schools: Author School Visit](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

Phil Bildner [blog post](#) about a canceled author visit due to *A High Five for Glenn Burke*

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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