

THE READING ZONE

STUDENT BOOK REVIEW

Miracle on 49th Street

By Mike Lupica

Published by Penguin Young Readers Group

I'm not the starting point guard on the Celtics, but Mike Lupica sure helps me relate to one in my favorite book. In *Miracle on 49th Street*, twelve year old Molly Parker has a mission. Molly has to convince the hunky, ladies' man point guard, Josh Cameron, that he is her father. Before Jen, Molly's mom, lost her battle with cancer, she revealed Molly's father's true identity. Now with only a piece of paper, written by her mother, a spunky 12 year-old Boston girl has to convince basketball royalty that there's a new girl in his life.

Lupica's novel is definitely one of the most tremendous works of literature that I have ever read. Lupica is one of the most versatile writers that I have ever come across. He can go from analyzing the Knick's game to putting down an outstanding kid's story selling thousands of copies. It amazes me that he can switch his writing persona back and forth like that. From just imagining how his daughter would be at age 12, as he has stated in interviews, he put himself into the shoes of a typical kid.

Half-way through the book, in one of the many climaxes, Molly's foster father reveals that Molly's family is moving to Los Angeles. Molly realizes that she only has six weeks to take Josh from Dad-Zero to *her* Hero.

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