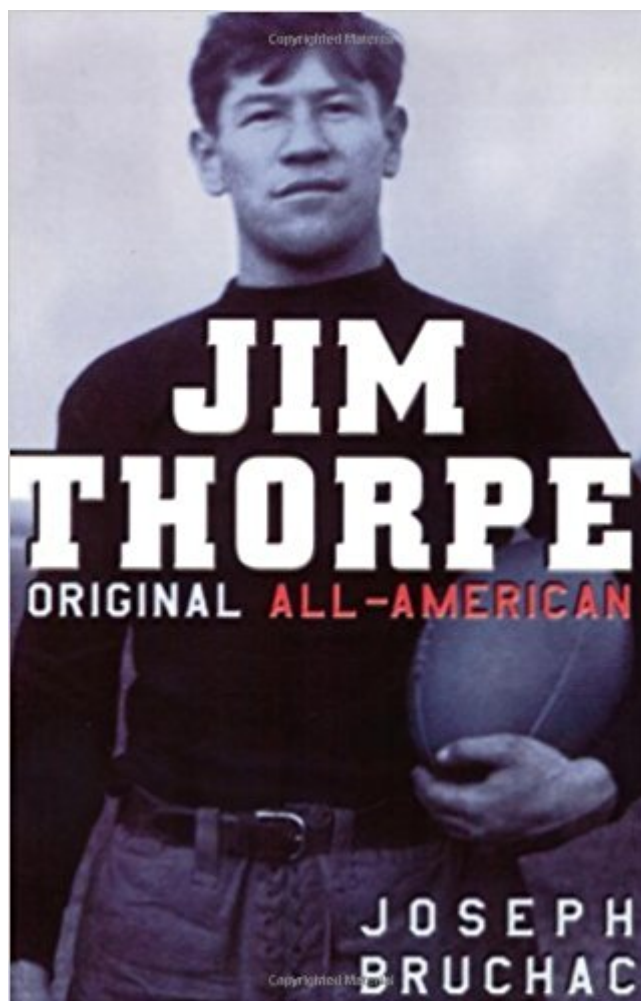


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# Jim Thorpe, Original All-American



## Synopsis

Jim Thorpe was one of the greatest athletes who ever lived. He played professional football and Major League baseball, and won Olympic gold medals in track and field. But his life wasn't easy. Born on a reservation, he endured family tragedy and was sent to various Native American boarding schools. Jim ran away from school many times, until he found his calling under the now-legendary coach Pop Warner. This is a book for history buffs as well as sports fans—an illuminating and lively read about a truly great American by award-winning author Joseph Bruchac. "The novel is a superb blend of fiction and nonfiction, rooted in the author's usual careful research." —Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-9 A fictionalized biography. Thorpe spent his life running—running away from school, running on the baseball diamond, running the football, or running to win both the pentathlon and the decathlon in the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. His accomplishments, his kindness and consideration of others, his defeats, and his exploitation are related in first-person narration, from his childhood on an Oklahoma reservation to the loss of his Olympic medals for playing on a professional minor-league baseball team. Readers learn about his athletic performances (some related play by play), his triumphs, his friendships, and his hardships through

the use of dialogue and description. The trust that Thorpe had in others and his own perseverance show both his personal weaknesses and strengths. While the writing is accessible, Bruchac's use of the first person is likely to mislead or confuse readers. Twelve poor-quality, black-and-white photographs document the subject's time at Carlisle Indian Industrial School and show him receiving the gold medal for the pentathlon from King Gustav V of Sweden. --Janice C. Hayes, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Gr. 6-9. Bruchac expands his Jim Thorpe's Bright Path (2004) into a full-length biopic--or at least the literary equivalent. Casting the narrative into the first person but sticking closely to documentary sources for people, incidents, and even dialogue, he details Thorpe's stellar amateur career in track, baseball, football, and the Olympics, along with the young athlete's repeated run-ins with hostile (and sometimes corrupt) officials and the harsh conditions he and his classmates endured at several Indian schools. In addition, as Thorpe played football for Carlyle's brilliant coach "Pop" Warner, readers will find fascinating glimpses of the game in its formative years. Relating his feats in matter-of-fact, never boastful tones, Thorpe demonstrates a peaceable, team-minded spirit, a solid work ethic (a persistent reputation to the contrary notwithstanding), and an occasional stubborn streak, but never a trace of bitterness or anger. As in many other, more conventional biographies, he comes across as both a hero and an unexcelled role model. For readers wishing to know more about Thorpe's professional career and later life, Bruchac supplies a long afterword and an annotated resource list. John Peters Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

The author adopts an extremely annoying approach by writing the book as if it is an autobiography or memoir of Thorpe. All in first person. A lot of "what he could have said, or been thinking" the first sentence is, " You can call me Jim", and it goes downhill from there. This book is so bad I was tempted to return it to because they have no business selling such a worthless book. Avodi

I enjoyed reading about Jim Thorpe in this book because the author does a good job of not boring the reader with too many dates and details while still giving interesting descriptions. I chose four stars because it isn't the most exciting book but it is a fun animated story that draws the reader in with twists, foreshadowing, and good dialogue. I suggest this book to any football fans who want to know

more about the history of the game and heroes of it. Thanks for taking this into account.

Based on phone reviews from my grandson & his mom, this is a great read, packed with credible history of growing-up-Oklahoma in Indian Country, forced into Boarding School horrors off reservation -- and habitually running away. Jim Thorpe, however, ultimately turned into what many consider the best athlete of his day - perhaps even the last century. "Very well written", says my daughter, who picks it up after her son falls asleep to polish off another chapter.

I first read this book back when i was in middle school and i loved it! I just had to get it! Its a really good book to read for ages middle school and older.

Fast shipping. Bought it for my 14 year old son. He has to read so many points each week for AR. Reading is not his favorite thing but he loves sports and really liked this book.

I love this inspiring story! Jim is a hero and the author did a great job portraying that to the readers.

Great for young readers. Some good history. Unusual writing style.

It is well written. Jim Thorpe has always been my favorite athlete. He accomplished what no other athlete accomplished by winning both the Pentathlon and the Decathlon events. I saw the movie when I was a child when it first came out.

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