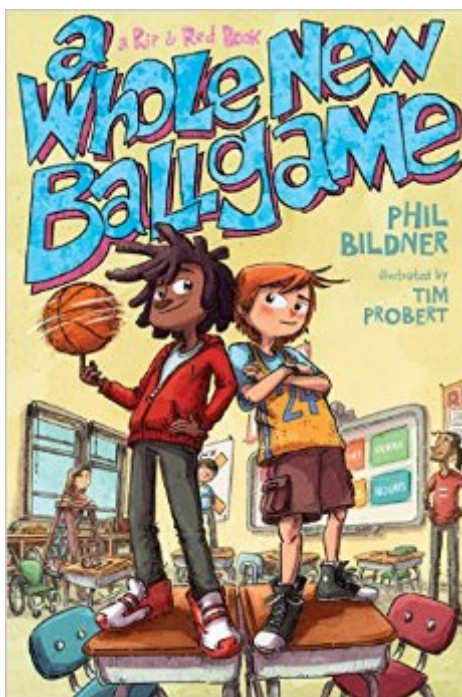


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# A Whole New Ballgame: A Rip And Red Book



## Synopsis

Fifth grade is one crazy ride in this middle grade novel about two best friends. Rip and Red are best friends whose fifth-grade year is nothing like what they expected. They have a crazy new tattooed teacher named Mr. Acevedo, who doesn't believe in tests or homework and who likes off-the-wall projects, the more "off" the better. And guess who's also their new basketball coach? Mr. Acevedo! Easy-going Rip is knocked completely out of his comfort zone. And for Red, who has autism and really needs things to be exactly a certain way, the changes are even more of a struggle. But together these two make a great duo who know how to help each other and find ways to make a difference in the classroom and on the court. With its energetic and authentic story and artwork, *A Whole New Ballgame* by Phil Bildner is a fresh, fun book about school, sports, and friendship. Cartoony illustrations lend energy and personality to the likable cast of characters. A school story with heart.

Kirkus Reviews This title has Common Core connections.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 540 (What's this?)

Series: Rip and Red (Book 1)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (July 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250079764

ISBN-13: 978-1250079763

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #59,250 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball #114 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #769 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

On one level, *A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME* by Phil Bildner and illustrated by Tim Probert is a book about friendship, about not rushing to judgment and not letting appearances scare you away from

making meaningful connections. On another level, it's about education, something that affects people of all ages and requires just as much open-mindedness as friendship. *A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME* focuses on best friends Rip, an African American boy, and Red, a boy on the autism spectrum, as budget cuts at their school force most of their teachers into retirement. One of the replacements is Mr. Acevedo, who has some rather unorthodox teaching strategies that test Rip and Red in ways they weren't expecting and that they initially resist. *A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME* is definitely a school story, though it does a nice job giving glimpses of Rip's home life, including his relationship with his mother, who is also an educator. It does an excellent job of stressing just how important education can be, and how stifling it can often become when schools and parents demand education be about teaching to a standardized test. To its credit, the book does not espouse a revolution against testing and is not about how public education is bad or wrong or a pointless endeavor. It recognizes the need for benchmarks and for testing, but it does not use standardized testing as an excuse to restrict creativity in the classroom, either from students or faculty. The story stresses a need for flexibility, and the power of presenting new information in a way that doesn't make children unresponsive to teaching. At first, Rip and Red --- as well as many parents in the book --- are pushed in ways that make them uncomfortable; they fear that education cannot work if it is not focused on a test.

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