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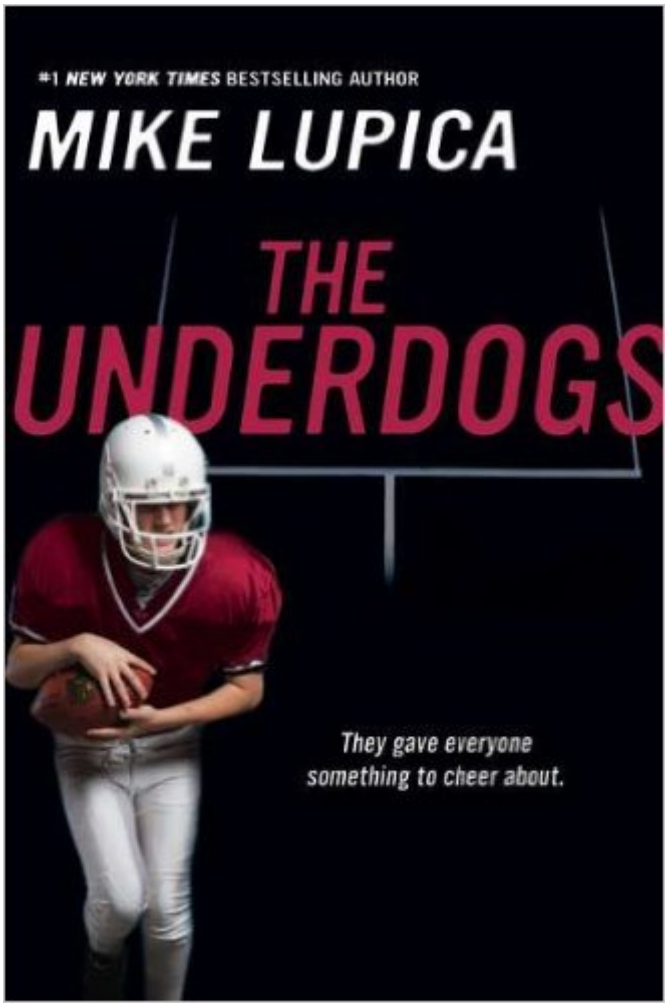
# The Underdogs

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## Synopsis

New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica tackles football! Will Tyler may not be the biggest running back around, but no one can touch him when it comes to hitting the hole and finding the end zone. And no one can match his love of the game. When Will has a football in his hand, life can't touch him--his dad isn't so defeated, his town isn't so poor, and everyone has something to cheer for. All of which does him no good if the football season is canceled. With no funding for things like uniforms and a well-maintained playing field, with every other family moving to find jobs, there just isn't enough money or players for a season. It's up to Will to rally the town and give everyone a reason to believe . . .

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0840 (What's this?)
Paperback: 304 pages
Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (May 15, 2012)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0142421391
ISBN-13: 978-0142421390
Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (77 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #39,219 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball #34 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Football #57 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life
Age Range: 10 and up
Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Twelve-year-old Will Tyler's passion is football. Not only does he love the sport, he also excels at it. Will has been looking forward to starting seventh grade and the beginning of the new football season. His team lost the championship last year when he fumbled the ball just feet from the goal line. He wants to show everyone that he and his teammates can be the real champs this year.But the trouble is, not only might they not make it to the finals, they might not even make it onto the football field. There is no money to pay for extracurricular activities at the middle school this year, which means the sports program will have to be cut, beginning with football. Severe cutbacks have

already been made due to lack of funding in previous years. As a result, the kids have no uniforms (the old ones were worn out and thrown away), and their stadium is falling apart.There are not even many kids left in town to play on the team. Most have moved away since the Forbes Flyer shoe factory shut down, taking most of the businesses down with it, and forcing a number of families to move elsewhere to find work. A lot of them have relocated to Castle Rock, the town just on the other side of the river, which is the home of their arch rival football team, the Castle Rock Bears. Businesses are going strong there, and the kids have a new stadium and get new uniforms every year.Facing a year without football, Will knows he has to do something to save the team. When he's able to secure funding from an unlikely source, who is willing to pay for new uniforms, stadium repairs, and all the other necessary items needed to get the team back onto the field, he thinks his troubles are over. Unfortunately, lack of funding isn't the only issue threatening the season.

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