

Practice Makes Perfect



By Antonio Sacre
Illustrated by Violet Tobacco

Publishing Credits

Rachelle Cracchiolo, M.S.Ed., *Publisher*
Conni Medina, M.A.Ed., *Editor in Chief*
Nika Fabienke, Ed.D., *Content Director*
Véronique Bos, *Creative Director*
Shaun N. Bernadou, *Art Director*
Seth Rogers, *Editor*
Valerie Morales, *Associate Editor*
Kevin Pham, *Graphic Designer*

Image Credits

Illustrated by Violet Tobacco

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Sacre, Antonio, 1968- author. | Tobacco, Violet, illustrator.

Title: Practice makes perfect / by Antonio Sacre ; illustrated by Violet Tobacco.

Description: Huntington Beach, CA : Teacher Created Materials, [2020] | Includes book club questions. | Audience: Age 13. | Audience: Grades 4-6. | Summary: "Enrique has a best friend named Roberto, a school that he enjoys, and a grandmother that he adores, but feels like the only Cuban boy in the United States that can't hit a baseball. Roberto shows him how to perfect his swing in exchange for Enrique's expertise in school so he can play in the big game"-- Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019031461 (print) | LCCN 2019031462 (ebook) | ISBN 9781644913574 (paperback) | ISBN 9781644914472 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Readers (Elementary) | Cuban Americans--Juvenile fiction. | Baseball stories.

Classification: LCC PE1119 .S16 2020 (print) | LCC PE1119 (ebook) | DDC 428.6/2--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019031461>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019031462>



5301 Oceanus Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030
www.tcmpub.com

ISBN 978-0-7439-6699-3

© 2020 Teacher Created Materials, Inc.

Table of Contents

Chapter One:	
Curve Ball	5
Chapter Two:	
Safe at Home	11
Chapter Three:	
Practice Makes Perfect	17
Chapter Four:	
It's a Game of Inches	21
Chapter Five:	
Who's the Man?	27
About Us	32

CHAPTER ONE



Curve Ball

Enrique stepped out of the batter's box and stared at the hulking giant on the pitcher's mound. Did that dude have a mustache? *I'd like to see that kid's birth certificate. If he's 10 years old, I'm Babe Ruth.*

Enrique clamped his jaw so tightly that the muscles in his cheek bulged out

to make him look more menacing. He stared out at the pitcher as if his eyes could burn holes into his foe at any moment. This would surely generate unease—if not downright fear—into his opponent. He slapped down on his helmet like he'd seen some of the pros do on TV, but he hit himself too hard and couldn't help but flinch.

He heard a few parents in the stands laugh. Was it at him? He stole a glance into the opposing team's bleachers. Sure enough, two dads wearing Miami Mice baseball hats turned their heads quickly away, pretending that they didn't just make fun of a fifth grader trying to do one of the most difficult things in all of sports.

He glanced at the home field side and saw the oldest woman he knew—his grandma—his feisty abuelita.

She hoisted her fists menacingly in the air at the offending parents. "Don't let them bother you. They are wearing mice on their heads! You are the

champion of my *corazón!*” she shouted.

Enrique loved his abuelita with every fiber of his being, and her voice soothed him and calmed his nerves at the same time. He readjusted his helmet and snarled to himself, “You got this!”

Abuelita jumped up in her seat again and screamed, “Umpire! Tell those tiny mice parents they are *sinvergüenzas!*”

The umpire smiled under his mask and bellowed, “Play ball!”

Enrique’s Pelican teammates on the bench howled with laughter and smashed their forearms into each other. His best friend Roberto hung his wiry frame out of the dugout and yelled, “Reekay, your abuelita’s got your back! Oh, man, she dropped the *sinvergüenza* bomb on them! Those dudes are shamed!”

Enrique dug his back foot into the dirt and gripped his bat while he stamped in his front foot.

Enrique stared down the pitcher while Roberto yelled louder, “Level

You've Just Finished your Free Sample

Enjoyed the preview?

Buy: <http://www.ebooks2go.com>