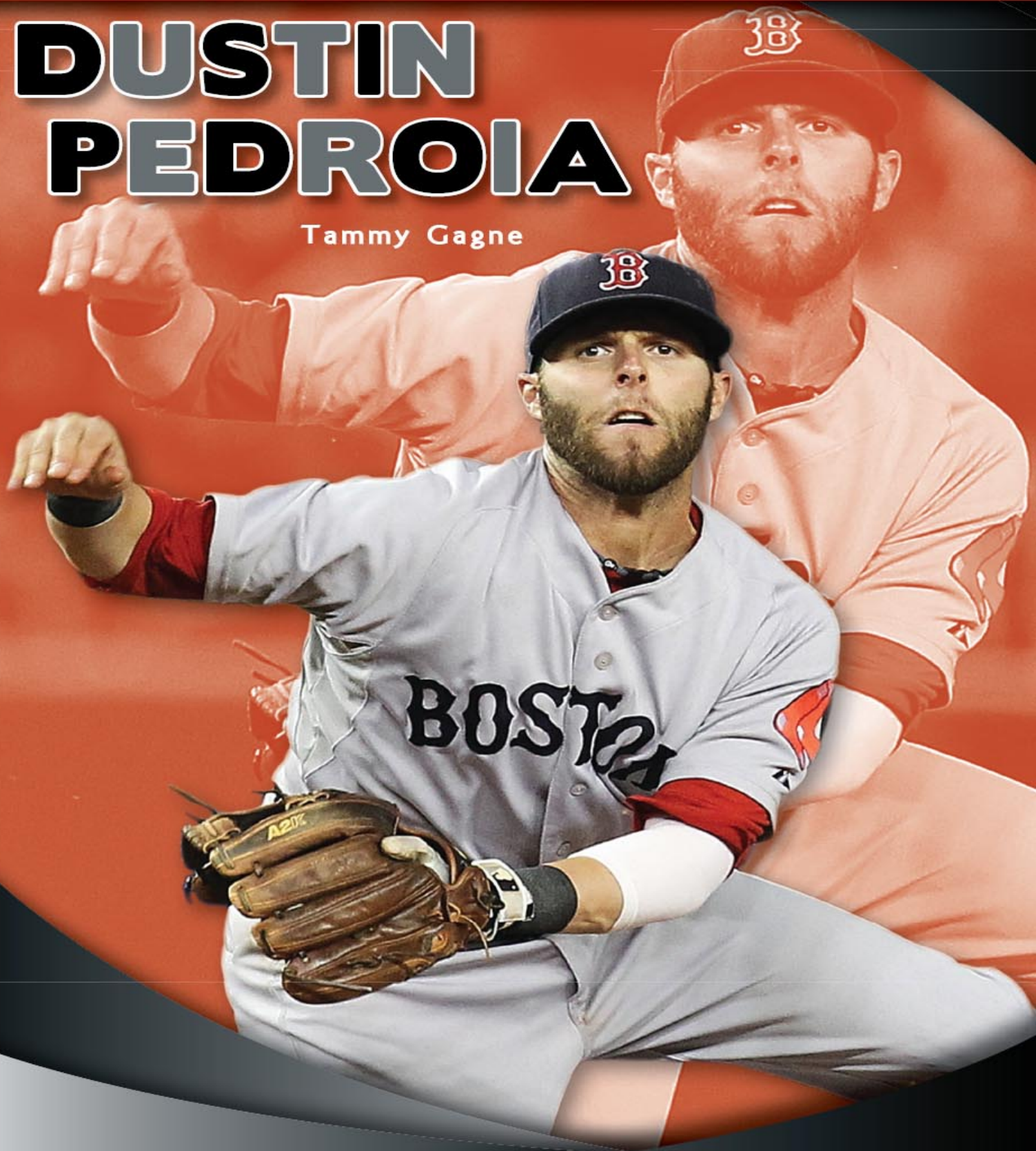


A R o b b i e R e a d e r

# DUSTIN PEDROIA

Tammy Gagne





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## **A Robbie Reader Biography**

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Albert Einstein  
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Dale Earnhardt Jr.  
Darius Rucker  
David Archuleta  
Demi Lovato  
Donovan McNabb  
Drake Bell & Josh Peck  
Dr. Seuss  
**Dustin Pedroia**  
Dwayne “The Rock”  
Johnson  
Dwyane Wade  
Dylan & Cole Sprouse  
Emily Osment  
Hilary Duff  
Jamie Lynn Spears  
Jennette McCurdy  
Jesse McCartney  
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Joe Flacco  
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Mia Hamm  
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Raven-Symoné  
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Shaquille O'Neal  
Story of Harley-Davidson  
Sue Bird  
Syd Hoff  
Tiki Barber  
Tim Lincecum  
Tom Brady  
Tony Hawk  
Troy Polamalu  
Victor Cruz  
Victoria Justice

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Tammy Gagne is the author of numerous books for adults and children, including Colin Kaepernick, Darius Rucker, and Hope Solo for Mitchell Lane Publishers. She resides in northern New England with her husband and son. One of her favorite pastimes is visiting schools to speak to kids about the writing process.

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PBP

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## CHAPTER ONE

# The Early Bird . . .

Many hardcore baseball fans show up hours before a game. So does one of the game's most dedicated players. Long before the crowds start gathering outside Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts, Dustin Pedroia is hard at work. It isn't a new habit for the Red Sox second baseman. He's done it since he played Little League in his home state of California. Back then he would arrive two hours early. Now it's closer to six hours.

"It's basically a comfortable spot for me. It's a place where I've been all my life," he explained to the *Boston Globe* in 2011. "I think it's a thing that kind of calms me down before a game."

It's not unusual for athletes to have obsessive habits. Many always take the same route to the ballpark or wear a certain piece of jewelry during every game. Dustin insists that it's not about **superstition** for him. "I don't need to do all the stuff I do. It's just that I like it."

It seems to work for him—and his team. Since being drafted by the Red Sox in 2004, Dustin has done some impressive things. He



was American League Rookie of the Year in 2007 as the Red Sox swept the World Series. And that was just for starters.



*Dustin's enthusiasm is obvious in the way he plays the game. Here, he tries to complete a double play despite a hard slide by Justin Upton of the Atlanta Braves during a 2014 game. Boston would win that game 8 to 6.*



*It looked like the Oakland Athletics were going to win their game against Boston on June 21, 2014. But Dustin scored on a wild pitch in the eighth inning to tie the score at 1–1. Still, the A's managed to win the game 2 to 1 in the 10th inning.*



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