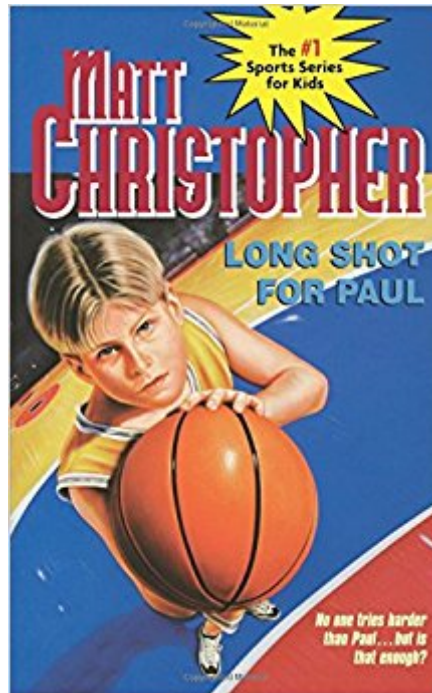




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# Long Shot For Paul (Matt Christopher Sports Classics)





## Synopsis

Glenn Marlett is determined to make his brother Paul, who is developmentally disabled, a decent basketball player.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630L (What's this?)

Series: Matt Christopher Sports Classics (Book 29)

Paperback: 155 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 4, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316142441

ISBN-13: 978-0316142441

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #797,460 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #270 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball #704 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #2643 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Matt Christopher is the best selling name behind more than 100 sports-themed books for young readers.

PROs\* Moral story that would have a positive influence for young minds  
CONs\* Zero character development\* Not enough focus on the main character, Paul\* Extremely repetitive basketball games\* Unrealistic, almost laughable dialog\* No suspense during the games\* Predictable plot\* One dimensional characters  
Before I begin the review, it is obvious that this book is not catered toward people who want an in depth reading experience, but for young teens whose parents want them to treat disabled kids nicely. That is fine, but it left much to be desired for a more experienced reader, hence the low score.  
My main complaint with the book is the lack of character development, especially for Paul, the focus of the book. It tells us that he is "developmentally disabled", but it goes



into next to no detail on to the extent or how this adversely impacts his life. The most description we get is that he parents have found that he's "slow to learn things" and he seems to have slightly worse reaction times than kids around his age. The plot of the book is that Glenn, Paul's brother, wants to train him to play basketball. Paul eventually joins Glenn's team, which we learn nothing about (is it for his school? A rec league?). You can probably guess how the book progresses from here. Paul makes the occasional mistake, but neither his family nor the coach ever gets frustrated; they are always perfectly content. It would be nice to see some real emotion here... Maybe Glenn getting frustrated and takes his anger out on Paul, only to realize his mistake and in turn, try to make it up to him. But we get nothing of the sort. Another complaint that takes away from the realism is the dialogue, particularly that of the kids. These guys are supposed to be budding teens, and they use insults like "birdface". I'm pretty sure if I called someone "birdface" when I was 13, far from people laughing at my unique 'insult', I would have been taken behind a dumpster and mugged. In other words, these kids simply are not as mean in the novel as they are in real life. The author probably didn't want to add any questionable material in a book for kids, but they see and hear it every day in school. I don't think pretending the issue doesn't exist is going to help. Strangely, instead of the book centering on Paul, who says about two full sentences the entire book (we never learn how he's feeling), the book spends most of its time on the basketball games, which Paul rarely gets to play in. Once you've read about one game, you've read them all; they are practically identical. Overall, I wish this book took a deeper look at Paul's developmental problems and his emotional outlook rather than basketball games. It gave too many facile answers to deep problems.

Loved it!

This is a good book for kids. I bought it for my son because he likes basketball, so, even though he is not "developmentally disabled" (in Mr. Christopher's words), I felt that he could relate to it on at least one level. This is the story of Paul who really wants to be a very good basketball player, but, as his peers and his coach are quick to tell him, he is kind of a strange-looking and he can't quite hold the ball right. But Paul finds much success and love in his life, because his brother still cares about him, even though Paul does have a droopy face and drools sometimes when he's excited. This book was confusing at first; Mr. Christopher refers to Paul as "developmentally disabled," a term which I found rather too vague. Once I realize that what Mr. Christopher meant was that Paul was mentally ... not-right, the book made a whole lot more sense to me. So by this one, cross out all of the "developmentally disableds," and replace them with "mentally not-rights," so your child will



understand. Put this one under the Christmas tree!

Matt Christopher's Long Shot for Paul is an awesome and encouraging book. Glenn, a normal young boy, teaches his brother Paul how to play basketball. The main problem was that Paul was mentally handicapped. Basketball came slow to Paul. My opinion of this book is that it is exciting and encouraging. It's exciting because you always want to know what's going to happen next. It's encouraging to know that Glenn is helping his brother get through the season. At first the coach won't let him play because they don't have enough jerseys. But when he gets his jersey he acts like the happiest kid on earth. I'd recommend this book to you if you like basketball. But don't just read this one there are a lot of other sports books with football, baseball, motocross, tennis and more. The reason I like sports books is because they give me ideas on what to do during a game, and they're just good to read.

Would you think that a disabled kid could learn so fast? Well Paul can. In Matt Christopher's Long Shot For Paul, the main character, Paul, learns to play basketball in 2 weeks. He and his brother Glenn are playing for the Sabers, but the players are being hard on Paul. Will the players accept Paul? I thought this book was awesome. It was a sports book and I love sports. Any kid who is into sports should read this book. On a scale from 1 to 10 this would definitely be a 10. I bet the author wrote this to get people to understand that just because people are different, it doesn't mean that they are not good at stuff or they aren't nice.

Long Shot for Paul is a very good book. I don't usually like sports books but this one I did. It's by a well known author, Matt Christopher. It's about two brothers Glenn and Paul. Glenn, the oldest, teaches Paul to play basketball. There's a problem; Paul has a learning problem and is slow. Paul is on a team but does not play a lot. The coach is mean and treats him badly because of his problem. Most of the story is exciting, but some parts are unrealistic. Like their family sits by the fire and sings Christmas songs. Also Glenn and his brother never fight. Matt Christopher has other good books but this one was my favorite. As you can see Long Shot for Paul is a very good book.

This book is a good book. It's about a boy named Glenn and his brother Paul, who is mentally challenged. Glenn helps Paul in basketball so he can make friends. But some people still won't accept him. This is a good book, and I would recommend it to any kid. It teaches you not to judge people just because they are different before you get to know them.



This book is about a kid who is disabled and can't learn as fast as others. His name is Paul, and he has a brother named Glenn. His brother was trying to teach him basketball so he would have something to do. Glenn wants Paul to have friends besides him. He thought it would be a good experience for Paul to play a sport. I thought this was a good book.

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