

# 2012 SUMMER READING LIST

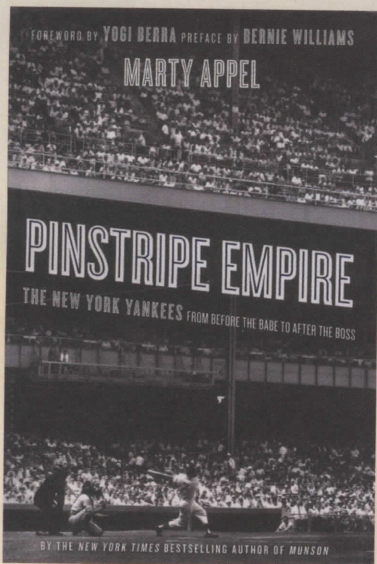
In years past, the summer reading list in *Yankees Magazine* focused on books dedicated to sports, in general, and baseball, in particular. While that's still the aim, we couldn't help but to expand and include fiction. Some of these selections have nothing to do with sports — at least on the page. The subtext, of course, is that if you like competition, then you are probably compelled by dramatic tension, of overcoming insurmountable odds, but also of being letdown, of losing.

Sports gives us one more way to feel alive, and these books helped us understand, just a little more, what that means.

But most of all, we picked these books simply because we liked them and thought you would, too.

Enjoy, and if you want to continue the discussion, write to us at [letters@yankees.com](mailto:letters@yankees.com).

## PINSTRIPED EMPIRE



It begins with the groundskeeper at Hilltop Park surveying the field before the Yankees' first game in 1903 and ends with head groundskeeper Dan Cunningham hosing down the infield on a recent day at Yankee Stadium. In between, *Pinstripe Empire: The New York Yankees from Before the Babe to After the Boss* (Bloomsbury) brings sports' most iconic franchise to life.

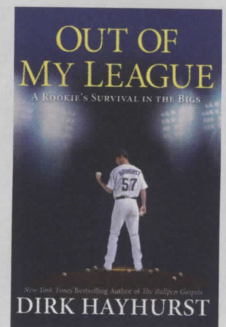
As a former Yankees public relations director, Marty Appel brings a unique insider's perspective to this well-told narrative. With a subject as broad as the history of the Yankees, it would be easy to get bogged down with stats and achievements. But Appel keeps the story moving along by using colorful characters and behind-the-scenes anecdotes that make *Pinstripe Empire* very hard to put down.

## OUT OF MY LEAGUE

For as long as newspapers have covered baseball, players have been careful to offer up bland cliché quotes, frustrating fans who really want to know what is going on inside a player's head. Thankfully, there is Dirk Hayhurst.

After six arduous years in the minors, Hayhurst made his major league debut with the Padres in 2008. In the witty, self-deprecating style that made his first book, *The Bullpen Gospels*, a *New York Times* bestseller, Hayhurst describes every moment of his arrival in the majors in thorough — and often times hilarious — detail in *Out of My League: A Rookie's Survival in the Bigs* (Citadel).

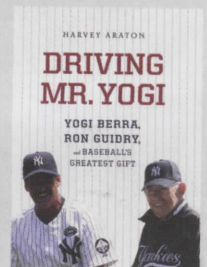
Hayhurst delves deep into his personal life, as well, taking readers on a memorable journey that cements his place in baseball history as one of the game's all-time great authors.



## DRIVING MR. YOGI

Each spring, the Yankees invite several former greats to training camp to help instruct the current ballplayers. Since 1999, two of them, Yogi Berra and Ron Guidry, have kindled a special friendship that is the basis of Harvey Araton's heartwarming book, *Driving Mr. Yogi: Yogi Berra, Ron Guidry and Baseball's Greatest Gift* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

Araton, the longtime *New York Times* sports columnist, sheds light on the unique relationship formed by a pitcher and a catcher who may come from different backgrounds and generations, but whose core values — respect, commitment, humility — have much in common. *Driving Mr. Yogi* is a great read not only for Yankees fans, but for anyone who values friendship and honor.



## LEFTY

He was a Hall of Fame pitcher who never lost a World Series. He was best buds with Joe DiMaggio and married Broadway star June O'Dea. He drove in the first run and was the winning pitcher in the first-ever All-Star Game. He gave lessons to Fidel Castro and was known as one of the funniest Yankees to wear the uniform.

Finally, there is a biography of Lefty Gomez, one of the greatest pitchers in Yankees history. Co-authored by his daughter, Veronika, *Lefty: An American Odyssey* (Ballantine) paints an intimate portrait of a man whose life off the field was equally as captivating as his unparalleled baseball career.

