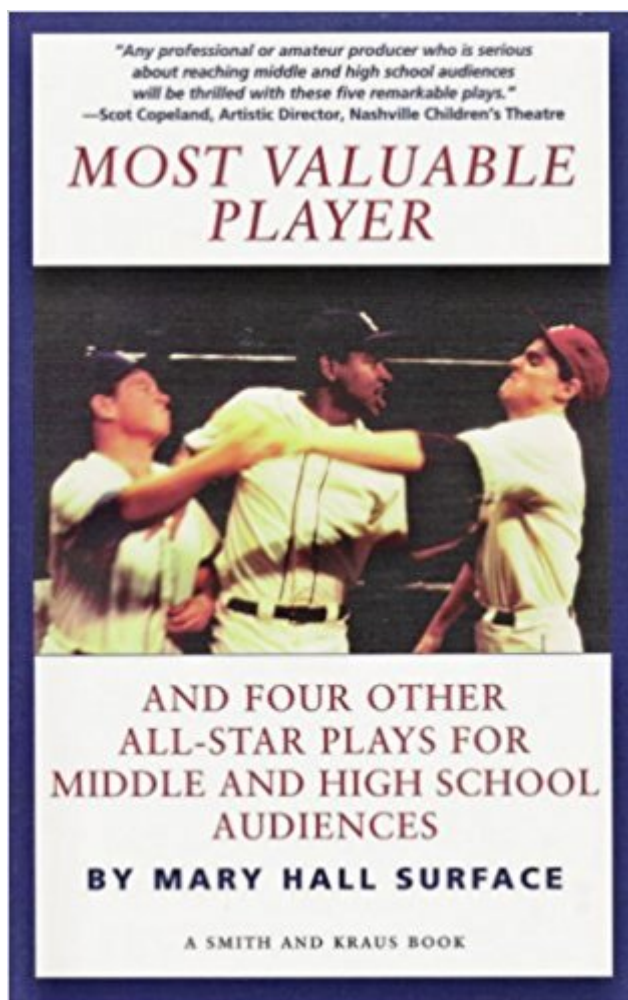


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# Most Valuable Player And Four Other All-Star Plays For Middle And High School Audiences (Young Actors Series)



## Synopsis

For producers who want to tackle contemporary social issues through award-winning plays for that most critical of audience members-the 12 to 18 year old. These five plays by internationally-recognized playwright Mary Hall Surface have won critical acclaim in professional, university, and community theatres throughout the United States and abroad. Follow Jackie Robinson's courageous fight against racial prejudice in *Most Valuable Player*; Feel the triumphs and traumas of an extraordinarily gifted child in *Prodigy*, the tale of Mozart's early life; Follow 16-year-old Kara, the daughter of an alcoholic parent as she spirals downward into dependency and destructive behavior in *Dancing Solo*; See how misunderstandings can escalate into prejudice, hate, and violence in the powerful *Broken Rainbows*; Struggle with 14-year-old Rene, who suffers from severe learning disabilities, as she forges an unlikely friendship with her "opposite," the over-achieving Katie in *Blessings*. Ms. Surface's plays give powerful voice to the experiences, hopes, fears and dreams of her young protagonists-voices that young audiences will recognize as their own. Wonderful roles for middle and high school students abound in these plays.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-Surface has been writing plays for young people for almost 20 years and this collection demonstrates the variety of her work. The title play is a compelling piece about Jackie Robinson's early days in the major leagues. The other selections deal with Mozart's childhood and issues such as high school drug dealing, racial conflict, learning disability, and the need for artistic expression. They all move along at a fast clip, the characters speak simply and directly, and the language is

realistic and occasionally rough. In most cases, the staging is fairly simple. This isn't the sort of book that most students would pick up and start to read. However, libraries that have a demand for play collections written for teens will find it useful. Todd Morning, Schaumburg Township Public Library, IL  
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..provides proven plays for possible production on themes of race, history, and everyday relations from a teenage perspective. -- KLIATT, March 2000..will provide junior and high school age students with the knowledge that at least one playwright is listening. -- Children's Book and Play Review, December 2000 Young adults will be pleasantly surprised by the ways these plays speak to their own experiences. -- Voya, August 2000

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