

## ABSTRACT

### SWINGING FOR THE FENCES

These creative nonfiction essays were written over a period of years, at different stages in my life and in my education as a writer. The themes and connections that bring these works together, however, run deep. The essays return over and over again to stories of disappointment and failed ideals: a fishing trip in which a personal triumph fails to deepen a connection with a distant father; a boyhood hero whose baseball successes do nothing to alter his inevitable path toward personal destruction; a week spent laboring meaninglessly at the bottom rung of America's rags to riches promise; and an afternoon of routine aimlessness that leads to an ominous end.

John Rabb  
May 2007