

Reading ^{with} Relevance[®]

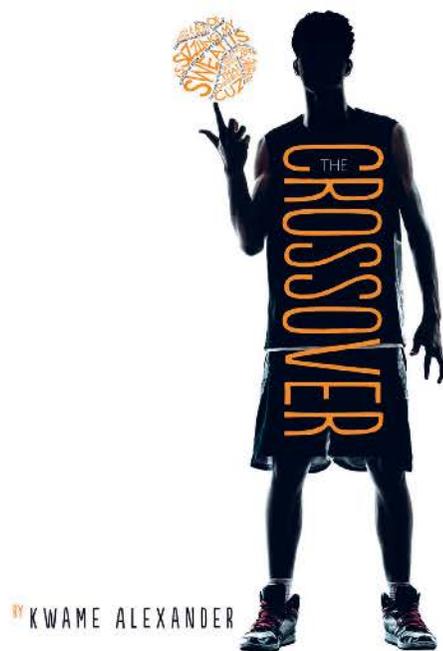
Building INDEPENDENT READERS and THINKERS

YOUR STUDENT WORKBOOK FOR

The Crossover

A novel by Kwame Alexander

"BOLD! EXPLOSIVE! ... I LOVE *THE CROSSOVER*. EVERYONE WILL." —NIKKI GIOVANNI



This workbook belongs to:

About the Book

The Crossover

Story Summary

***The Crossover* is a novel in verse that tells the story of Josh Bell, a seventh-grader who is passionate about and talented at playing basketball.**

Throughout the story, Josh balances his family life with school while leading an undefeated team to the championship. His father, Chuck, was formerly a professional basketball player in the Euroleague, but now suffers from hypertension. Chuck's health becomes a significant issue in Josh's life. Josh also contends with jealousy as his twin brother, JB, has a girlfriend for the first time. Through these challenges, Josh learns to manage his emotions and his relationships. This novel received the 2015 John Newbery Medal and the Coretta Scott King Author Award.

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and award-winning writer of over 20 books. Born in New York City, Alexander comes from a family of artists: both of his parents are writers, and his siblings are writers, photographers, and musicians. Alexander first knew that he wanted to be a poet when he wrote a poem for his girlfriend in college. She later married him. Alexander believes poetry can change the world, and travels all over the globe with that message. Each year, he leads a group of writers, educators, and activists in a trip to Ghana as part of LEAP for Ghana, a literacy program he founded that builds libraries and supports literacy teachers.

About the Author



Session 3

Theme: *Work Ethic*

Guiding Question: *Josh's father has instilled a strong work ethic in both his boys. Josh is dedicated to working hard at basketball to improve his game, and he also works hard at school. What can we learn from Josh's work ethic? Who are people you know that have a strong work ethic? Think about your own work ethic: how might it improve? How does having a strong work ethic help you achieve your goals?*

Vocabulary

Write a complete sentence for each of the following vocabulary words. Use the definitions provided to make sure you are using these words correctly!

pulchritudinous (pg. 55): adj., very beautiful, attractive



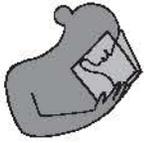
oozing (pg. 67): v., filled with and overflowing

mocks (pg. 69): v., tease

Session 2 Recap

In the previous session, Josh and JB play and win a basketball game. JB, who we learn likes to bet, places a bet with Josh. Josh loses the bet and has to let JB cut off one of his dreads. JB cuts off more than he is supposed to, and Josh ends up having to cut off all of his hair. Josh also reveals that his mother and father argue frequently about his dad's eating habits. At the end of the session, the twins discover that Chuck had patellar tendinitis, and they wonder why he never had surgery.

Read pages 50-85



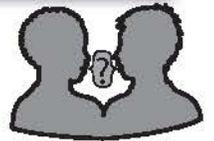
While You Read:

As you read, keep track of unfamiliar words, inspiring quotes, and questions you have.

Reading Context:

hypertension (pg. 74): high blood pressure, a condition which can be genetic and fatal if left untreated

Discussion Questions

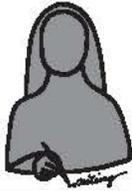


Write your response to each question below using a complete sentence.

- What tradition does the Bell family have on Sundays? What traditions do you and your family have?

- Coach says, "A winning strategy is not about planning. It's about quick responses to changing conditions." What does this mean? How does it apply to Josh's life?

- How do you think Josh feels about taking the fall? What would you have done in JB's position?



Choose one of these prompts to respond to in at least one full paragraph of writing.

WORK ETHIC

Josh is focused on basketball, and works hard to be the best player possible. This means putting in extra hours practicing and thinking about basketball even when he is not playing.

How would you describe your work ethic?

- » How do you think you can improve your work ethic?
- » Why is it important to have a strong work ethic? How does it help you achieve your goals?
- » Who helps to drive you to work hard?

CONNECTION

Josh is incredibly close with his family. He shoots free throws with his father and brother every evening after dinner, and his mom is a loving and caring parent as well.

Who in your life do you have a strong connection with?

- » How does it feel to have this person in your life?
- » How is your relationship similar to or different from the connections Josh has with his family members?
- » How can you show this person your appreciation?

Name: _____

#1 Time frame:

By the end of this school year...

By the end of middle school...

By the time I graduate high school...

By the time I finish college...

Earning my dream job...

#2 My goals:

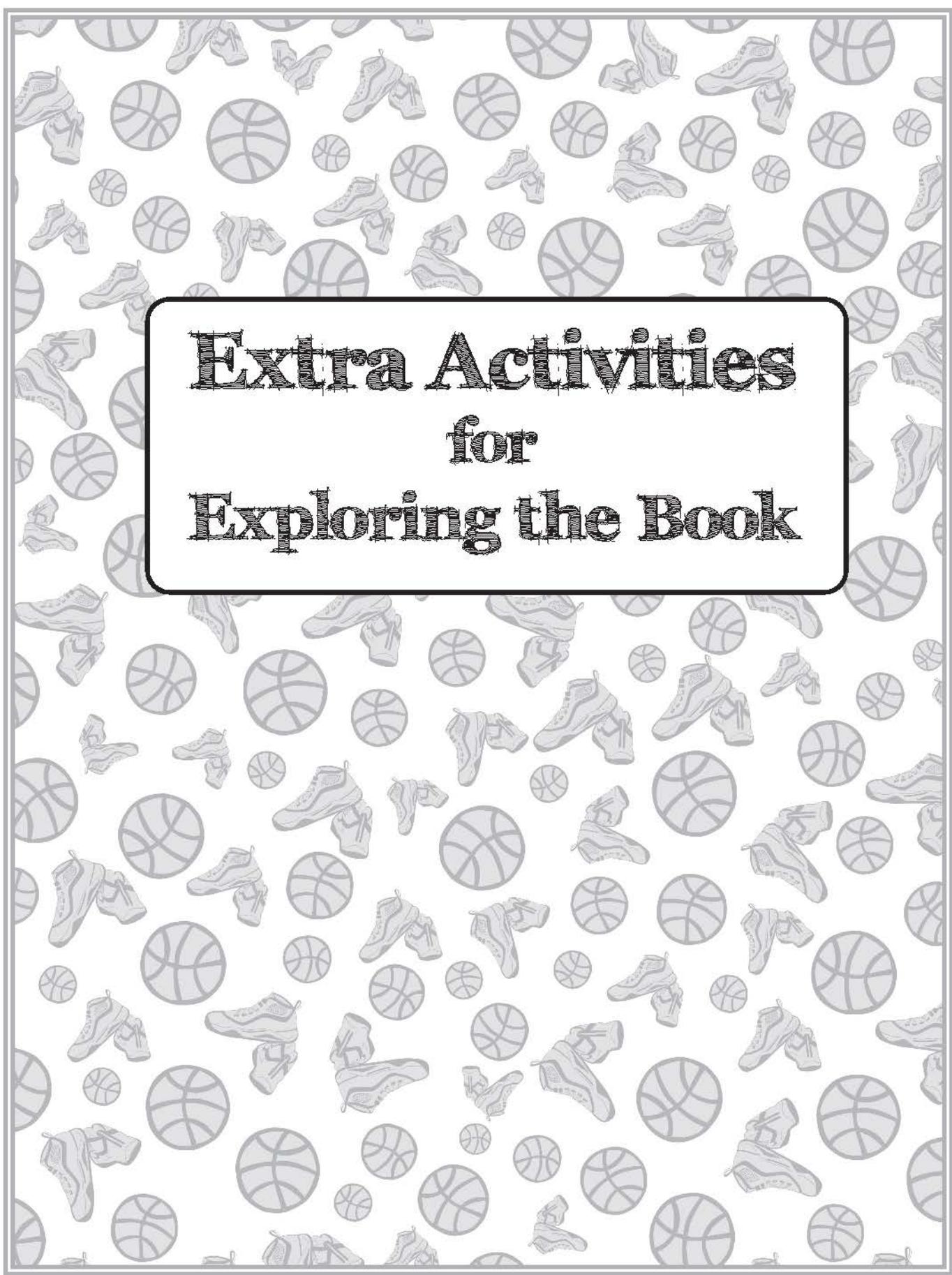
#3 To achieve this goal I need to:

What challenges might you face on your way to reaching your goals? How will you overcome those challenges?

Who can support you in reaching these goals?

Use this handout to list some of your goals and dreams and think through how you might reach those goals. Dream big!

My Goals

The background of the page is a repeating pattern of basketballs and sneakers in a light gray color. The basketballs are scattered throughout, and the sneakers are also scattered, some appearing as pairs and some as single shoes. The pattern is dense and covers the entire page.

Extra Activities for Exploring the Book

NEWS

TITLE OF YOUR NEWSPAPER

Volume 12, No. 179
NEWS

50¢

INSIDE

Sports | pg. 4

| pg.

| pg.

OTHER HEADLINES

HEADLINE (make sure it's catchy!)

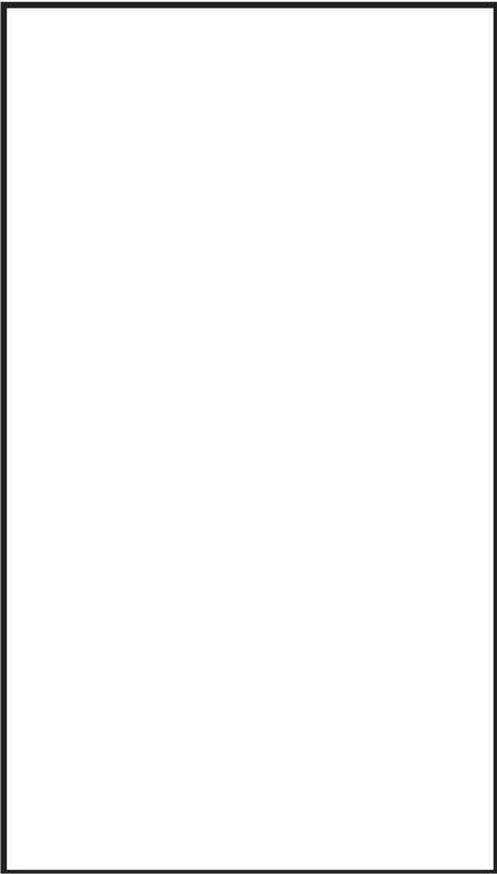


photo by

photo caption

by

Four horizontal lines for writing the photo caption and author name.

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the main body of the newspaper article.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Your job is to write a newspaper story about the big championship game. Be sure to include a good headline and even sketch a simple picture to include in your front page story!

Newspaper Article