

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**VOCABULARY TRACKER**

Use the chart below to record unfamiliar terms that you encounter while reading. Choose words that you are likely to use in future reading, writing, and class discussions in this and other classes. Page references will vary depending on the edition of the book you are reading.

Word	Page	Definition from Context	Dictionary Definition	My New Sentence
<i>acclaimed</i>	4	<i>Something acclaimed is probably good.</i>	<i>Praised in public</i>	<i>LeBron James's skill was acclaimed around the world.</i>

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**READ AND RESPOND 1**

Warm-Up and First Quarter

Remember to annotate as you read. Your teacher may ask you to use sticky notes, highlight ideas, or mark and write comments on the pages. Annotating will help you find evidence to support ideas in discussions. After reading, complete the following activities.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions independently.

1. What individual strengths do Josh and JB have as basketball players?

2. Why did Josh's dad stop playing basketball professionally?

3. Which character has hypertension, and what is it?

PICK A PASSAGE

Review the pages you have just read and choose a sentence or short passage that you find important or thought-provoking, or one that you have a question about. Discuss it with a partner or group.

**TALK ABOUT THE BOOK**

Discuss the following in pairs or small groups. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

1. How might Josh's dreadlocks function as a **symbol** in the story?
2. How well do you think JB makes up for cutting five locks of Josh's hair?
3. What are some of the lessons you gather from Mr. Bell's favorite story?

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**READ AND RESPOND 2**

Second Quarter

Remember to annotate as you read. Your teacher may ask you to use sticky notes, highlight ideas, or mark and write comments on the pages. Annotating will help you find evidence to support ideas in discussions. After reading, complete the following activities.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions independently.

1. What does Josh learn from his mother about his grandfather?

2. What is the real reason that Josh doesn't want to stop at Pollard's Chicken and BBQ after the game?

3. What is Josh's "tipping point"?

PICK A PASSAGE

Review the pages you have just read and choose a sentence or short passage that you find important or thought-provoking, or one that you have a question about. Discuss it with a partner or group.

TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

Discuss the following in pairs or small groups. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

1. How do **elements of poetry**, such as visual elements and sound devices, contribute to emotions or meaning in *The Crossover*?
2. What do Josh's changing feelings about his nickname tell you about him?
3. What do you think could help Josh and his father solve the **conflicts** that have been introduced?

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READ AND RESPOND 3

Third Quarter

Remember to annotate as you read. Your teacher may ask you to use sticky notes, highlight ideas, or mark and write comments on the pages. Annotating will help you find evidence to support ideas in discussions. After reading, complete the following activities.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions independently.

1. What is Josh’s punishment for injuring JB in the game?

2. How has Josh been churlish?

3. What causes Mr. Bell’s nose to start bleeding at the game?

PICK A PASSAGE



Review the pages you have just read and choose a sentence or short passage that you find important or thought-provoking, or one that you have a question about. Discuss it with a partner or group.

TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

Discuss the following in pairs or small groups. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

1. How is Josh “estranged” from himself when he throws the ball at JB?
2. How would you coach the characters in this story to improve their communication skills?
3. What effect does the author’s use of **foreshadowing** have on you? Discuss specific instances in this section and how you reacted as a reader.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**READ AND RESPOND 4**

Fourth Quarter and Overtime

Remember to annotate as you read. Your teacher may ask you to use sticky notes, highlight ideas, or mark and write comments on the pages. Annotating will help you find evidence to support ideas in discussions. After reading, complete the following activities.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions independently.

1. What happens to Mr. Bell when he and Josh play one-on-one before the tournament?

2. Why does Josh go outside to practice his free throws after the funeral?

3. What does JB give to Josh in the final scene of the book?

PICK A PASSAGE

Review the pages you have just read and choose a sentence or short passage that you find important or thought-provoking, or one that you have a question about. Discuss it with a partner or group.

TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

Discuss the following in pairs or small groups. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

1. What do you think Josh has learned about himself by the end of the book?
2. Why might it be easier for Josh and his dad to speak to each other in questions rather than answers?
3. What do you think the ring means in the final scene of the book?