

The Crossover

By Kwame Alexander

Annotation

- Using riffs from concrete poetry, hip-hop and jazz, this is the verse story of twins Josh and Jordan Bell. Both boys dominate the basketball court, and Josh is also a master of rhythm and rhyme. Their family bond is strong. AP mom supports education; former professional player dad is there to coach them, but things change, especially for Josh when Jordan meets a new girl and dad refuses to confront his health problems.

Book Talk

- “Filthy McNasty” is his nickname, and basketball is his game. Josh pops and rocks, he crosses and flosses, rapping his way around the game, while watching his twin Jordan make moves of his own, with the new girl.

Book Trailers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppfOEp73H3s>

Author on the Internet

- Website: <http://www.bookinaday.org/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kwamealexander>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KwameAlexanderBooks/>
- Tumblr: <https://www.tumblr.com/search/kwame+alexander>

Awards

- 2015 John Newbery Medal
- 2015 Coretta Scott King Author Honor)
- 2015 NCTE Charlotte Huck Award Honor for Outstanding Fiction for Children
- 2015 Penn State/Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award
- 2015 Paterson Poetry Prize for Young People's Literature

Items to use in a library display

- Basketball, vocabulary lists

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/mta/kalexander/TheCrossover_BG.pdf

First Line of the Book:

- “At the top of the key, I’m MOVING & GROOVING, POPping and ROCKING--Why you BUMPING?”

Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)

- Sports Illustrated Kids: Big Book of Who Basketball
- Basketball by Mark Stewart

- Amazing Basketball Records by Paul Hoblin

What to Read Next

- *Hip Hop Speaks to Children: a Celebration of Poetry with a Beat*. Edited by Nikki Giovanni.
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing up Latino in the United States* Edited by Lori M. Carson

Other Books by the Author

- *Booked* (2016)
- *He Said She Said* (2013)
- *Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band* (2011) (Elementary)
- *Indigo Blume and the Garden City* (2010) (Elementary)
- *And Then You Know: New and Selected Poems* (2009)
- *An American Poem* (2008)
- *Crush: Love Poems for Teenagers* (2008)
- *Family Pictures: Poems and Photographs Celebrating Our Loved Ones*, ed.

Other Resources

- Music: "Filthy McNasty" by Horace Silver
- Poetry: concrete poetry/shape poetry, theme poems
- Poetry/Reader's Theatre Script/Book Study:
http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/mta/kalexander/TheCrossover_BG.pdf
- Interview with the author:
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/poets-novel-turns-young-sports-lovers-book-lover/s/>;
http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newbery-2015-peech_final.pdf
- Lesson ideas:
<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/write-theme-poems-30173.html>;