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THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
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Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

The Crossover

Author:

Kwame Alexander

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
Created by didtheyreallyread.com

How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

What does the word crossover mean in basketball, and how might it also connect to life changes?

Example answer: I think a crossover is when a player quickly changes direction with the ball to get past someone. In the book, it also connects to the way Josh's life keeps changing. He has to deal with JB liking someone new, problems with his dad's health, and changes in his family. The word fits because Josh has to learn how to move through hard changes, not just around defenders.

How to Answer (continued)

How does Josh handle his anger, and what could he have done differently?

Example answer: Josh handles his anger in a way that hurts JB and makes things worse. I understand that he feels jealous and embarrassed, but throwing the ball at JB is not okay. He could have talked to JB, walked away, or told his parents how upset he was. A stronger choice would have helped him fix the problem instead of creating a new one.

How has Josh changed from the beginning of the story to now?

Example answer: At the beginning, Josh seems mostly focused on basketball, his hair, and being a great player. By the end, he understands more about family, forgiveness, and loss. He still loves basketball, but it means something deeper because it connects him to his dad and brother. I think Josh becomes more caring and more grown-up.

Chapter 1

What do you learn about Josh Bell from the way he describes his basketball skills?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 90

How does the ending show that love, family, and basketball are all connected?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 89

If you could give Josh advice after the ending, what would you tell him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

How does the fast rhythm of the opening chapter make you feel as a reader?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Why do you think basketball is so important to Josh and his family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 88

What is the most important theme of the book, and what events support it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 87

How has Josh changed from the beginning of the story to now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

What does Josh’s nickname, Filthy McNasty, show about how he sees himself on the court?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

How are Josh and JB alike, and how are they different so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 86

What lesson about brothers stands out to you by the end of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 85

How do Josh and JB honor their father in their own ways?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

What does Josh’s hair seem to mean to him, beyond just being a hairstyle?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

How does Josh’s dad help shape the boys’ love of basketball?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 84

Why might basketball still matter after such a sad loss?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 83

How does Josh describe grief, and what images or actions make it clear?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

What details show that Chuck Bell was a great player in the past?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

How does Mom’s role at school affect Josh and JB?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 82

What emotions do you feel during the chapters about Dad’s death, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 81

How does JB help Josh when Josh is hurting?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

What do you notice about the way Josh uses basketball words to tell about his life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

When Josh talks about rules, what do the rules help you understand about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 80

What does teamwork mean for Josh and JB near the end of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 79

How does the final game feel different from earlier games in the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What prediction can you make about the basketball season based on the early chapters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

How does Josh feel when JB starts paying attention to a girl, and what clues show this?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 78

Why is it difficult for Josh to play basketball when his heart is somewhere else?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 77

How does Josh respond to Dad's serious heart problem?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Why might it be hard for Josh to share his twin brother's attention with someone else?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

What does the word crossover mean in basketball, and how might it also connect to life changes?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 76

What does the word legacy mean, and what is Chuck Bell’s legacy to his sons?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 75

How does the family’s love show up during the hardest moments?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How does Josh’s voice change when he is excited, upset, or bragging?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

What does the family dinner scene show about the Bells as a family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 74

What questions would you want to ask Josh if you could talk to him here?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 73

How does grief begin to appear in the story, even before the biggest loss?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

How does Dad’s joking or teasing show both love and pressure?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What early signs suggest that Dad may not be taking his health seriously?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 72

Why is it important that Josh begins to see JB as more than just a teammate?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 71

What does Josh’s relationship with his dad mean to him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Why do you think Josh notices small changes in his family so carefully?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

What do JB’s choices show about what matters to him right now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 70

How does the author build suspense before the championship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 69

What choice does Josh face between focusing on the game and focusing on family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

How does Josh react to feeling left out, and is his reaction fair?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What does the author show about jealousy in these chapters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 68

How does Dad’s condition change the way Josh thinks about time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 67

What does Josh need from his brother most at this point in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

How does basketball give Josh a way to express feelings he may not say out loud?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

What does the word pulchritudinous mean, and why is it a funny or surprising word for Josh to learn?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 66

How do basketball games help show the twins' relationship without directly explaining it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 65

What does the vocabulary word calamity mean, and how does it fit events in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

How does Miss Sweet Tea change the relationship between the twins?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

What advice does Dad give, and how helpful do you think it is?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 64

Why do you think the author includes both funny moments and serious moments?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 63

How does JB show that he still cares about Josh, even when things are tense?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

How does Josh compare himself to JB, and what does that reveal about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

What moment in this chapter shows that being a twin can be both close and complicated?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 62

What does Josh notice about his mother during stressful moments?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 61

How does the hospital or health scare change the family’s normal routine?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

What do you think Josh is most afraid of losing? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

How does the author use short lines or spacing to make the scene feel more powerful?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 60

What does Josh learn about the difference between being tough and being honest?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 59

How does the idea of winning change as the story goes on?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

Why does Josh’s hair become such a big deal in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

How does Josh feel after the bet or haircut, and what words help you know?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 58

What do Dad’s stories about his basketball career teach the boys?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 57

Why is forgiveness hard for both Josh and JB?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

What do Josh’s locks represent to him before they are cut?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

How does JB’s mistake affect Josh’s trust in him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 56

How does Josh try to get back into the rhythm of basketball and family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 55

What does JB's relationship with Miss Sweet Tea teach Josh about growing up?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

What should JB do to repair the hurt between him and Josh?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

How does Josh handle his anger, and what could he have done differently?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 54

How does Josh’s anger begin to change into sadness or regret?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 53

What prediction do you have about Dad’s health, and what clues support it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Why is the basketball Josh throws at JB more than just a bad play?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

How does the injury to JB change the mood of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 52

How does the author connect basketball pressure with pressure at home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 51

What theme about family appears in this part of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

What consequences does Josh face, and do you think they are fair?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

How does Mom respond to Josh's choices, and what does this show about her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

How does Josh react when he sees his dad as less than invincible?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

What does Mom want for Dad, and how does that show her love?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

What lesson can readers learn from Josh's mistake during the game?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

How does Josh’s loneliness grow after JB stops talking to him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

Why might Dad avoid doctors even when his family is worried?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

How does Dad’s health problem add worry to the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

Why can silence between family members hurt so much?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

How does the team feel different when the twins are not working together?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

What does Josh begin to understand about saying sorry?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
