

Name:

Day One

Derrick Jackson's Problem

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out one reporter's problem with college sports. Read silently.

Millions of people love watching college football and basketball on TV. They see heroic players who can dunk, dodge tackles, and sink three-pointers. Derrick Jackson sees something else. He sees a tragedy. He sees young men who make millions of dollars for other people, and may not even get a diploma in return.

Derrick Jackson is a columnist for the *Boston Globe*. Each year, powerful teams play big games. Each year, Jackson writes about these teams' graduation rates. He says that players "often feel more pressure to play than to pass their courses." He says that this is especially hazardous for Black players.

Jackson believes wealthy colleges exploit Black athletes. Their talent is valuable, but colleges don't prepare them for life after sports. Coaches push athletes for big wins, not good grades. "Head coaches now make an average of \$1 million," Jackson points out, "and not for graduating players."

Often, the best teams are the worst offenders. In 2007, fewer than half of the Black players on the college championship teams ended up graduating. But rates are improving at some football powerhouses. In 2017, both championship teams had improved graduation rates. At Clemson, 79 percent of Black football players are now getting college diplomas, and at Alabama, the rate is 81 percent. But Derrick Jackson keeps writing his columns. He wants fans to know that the people most responsible for the big games—the players—may walk away with nothing.



Day One

// one minute

Derrick Jackson's Problem

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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39
54

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68
82
98
104

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115
129
143
150

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166
178
189
202
216
231
241

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What is Derrick Jackson worried about?

What improvement happened between the 2007 and the 2017 college championships games?

Day One

Derrick Jackson's Problem

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

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Derrick Jackson is a columnist for the *Boston Globe*. // Each year, / powerful teams play big games. // Each year, / Jackson writes about these teams' graduation rates. // He says that players / "often feel more pressure to play than to pass their courses." // He says that this is especially hazardous / for Black players. //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.