

STARI Unit 3.1 *Game* Distance Learning Packet

Materials needed:

- This independent/partner reading packet
- *Game* by Walter Dean Myers
- Fluency passage packet at assigned level



For families:

This packet is designed to guide your students through the work of reading and comprehending the Unit 3.1 novel, ***Game***, by **Walter Dean Myers**. Students may use the packet independently, working at home.

How can I support my child in completing this packet?

STARI is meant to be a **discussion-based curriculum**. In fact, our research shows that it is students' talk about text that builds their comprehension skills. Therefore, we encourage you to try to find any possible opportunities for students to engage in talk about text. Could students connect with their partners virtually, to talk via phone or computer? Could you, or a sibling or other family member, read the novel and talk about it with your child? The more students are able to talk about the text, the more improvement in their skills we expect to see.

How should students use the fluency packets?

STARI students have been assigned a fluency level: A, B, C, or D. They have been taught a 2-day fluency routine. The steps of the routine can be found on pp. 3-4 of the packet. Students should engage in this 2-day routine one to two times per week. Each day of the routine involves a timed reading of the assigned passage. If students are able to pair up with someone (parent or family member, or online partner) to time them, that is ideal. Alternatively, they can record themselves reading and use the recording to time themselves, or submit the recording to their teacher.

How can we access the novel?

The novel for this unit is *Game*, by Walter Dean Myers. Many schools are providing students with PDFs or hard copies of assigned texts. If that is not the case for your school, this book is generally easily available for purchase. Your local bookstore or an online retailer may be able to ship it to you, or you can buy a digital copy. Alternatively, you may be able to check out a digital or hard copy from your local library. Finally, some STARI schools have directed students to online free libraries such as Open Library and National Emergency Library.

This packet is no substitute for the rich discussion that takes place in STARI classrooms, but we hope that it provides continuing support for students in these difficult times. For more information, contact your child's teacher or visit serpinstitute.org/stari/distance-learning.

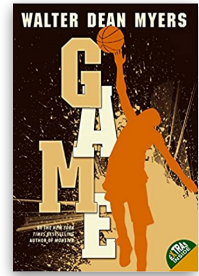


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STARI Unit 3.1 *Game* Distance Learning Packet

For students:

This packet will guide you through the work of reading and comprehending the Unit 3.1 novel, ***Game***, by **Walter Dean Myers**.



Where do I start? Check with your teacher. In STARI, we don't start the novel until halfway through the unit. Your teacher may have work for you to do before you start the novel.

What do I do? Follow along in the packet to read the text in *Game* and answer the questions in the packet. Complete the fluency routine when the packet reminds you to.

But don't I need a partner? Yes, if possible. For fluency, can you connect with a classmate over the phone to do fluency practice? Can you ask a parent or sibling to time you when you read? If you don't have a partner, record yourself reading (you can use your phone). Then you can listen to the recording and time yourself.

For reading the novel, can you connect with a classmate to discuss the book on the phone? Can a parent, sibling or family member read the book too, and discuss it with you?

But I don't have the book! If you are not able to get the book from school, try downloading a copy from your local library, or Open Library, or National Emergency Library. You can read it on your phone.

This isn't the same as reading in class with your teacher. But you can do it!

Guided reading

Game (pp. 1-12)

Overview: Where does Drew live? What do we learn about his neighborhood?

Vocabulary:

Savannah: a city in Georgia, in the south

Baldwin: the high school that Drew attends. His team is the Baldwin Chargers.

 **Comprehension:** Read up to “...staggered out of the room” on p. 5 and answer the following questions:

Who are the members of the family? What are they like?

Why is Mom so upset?

 **Read pages 5-10, until you get to “...had a slight accent.” Answer the following questions:**

What is Drew saying about himself and his dream?

What is about to change things for Drew?

Guided reading, continued

 Read pages 10-12, until you get to “...English was my shakiest subject.”
Answer the following questions:

What happened in English class? Had Drew done his work? What does this tell us about Drew?

What seems important so far? What should we remember about Drew?



Before you read these pages, complete the Day One fluency routine for passage 4.

Partner reading

Game (pp. 12–18)

As the chapter continues, Drew is at school with friends, teachers, and teammates.



Read silently to the end of the third paragraph on page 14.



When you get to “Any questions?” turn and talk with your partner.

Coach House has a new game plan. Drew is a guard on the team. With Coach House’s new game plan, should Drew score more or assist more?

Drew should



Read silently to the bottom of page 18. You’ll learn about the team practice.

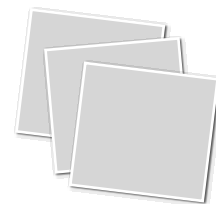


When you get to the bottom of the page, turn and talk with your partner about the different players on the Chargers.

Complete the **Team lineup** activity on the next page.



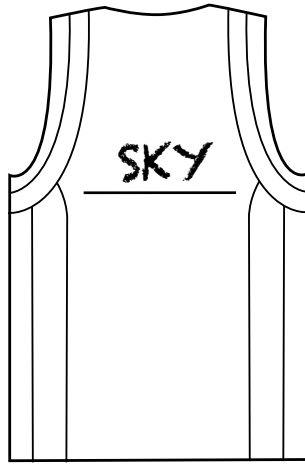
Be sure to use your Post-Its to find 2-3 words to clarify.



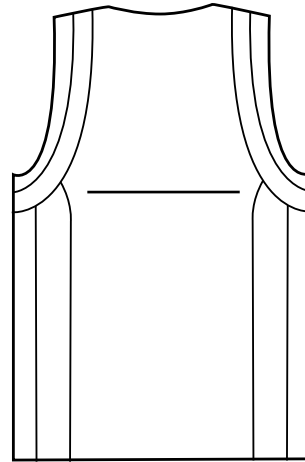
Team lineup

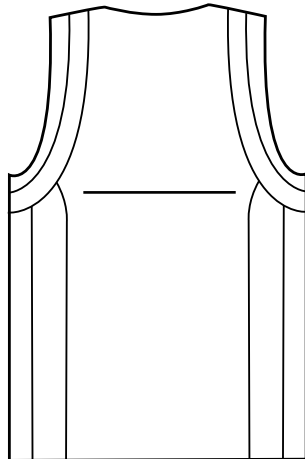
- Label the back of each jersey with the name of a Chargers player or coach.
- On the lines under the jersey, write two details about the player. For example, you can write the position he plays, his race, or something else you know about him from pages 12–18.

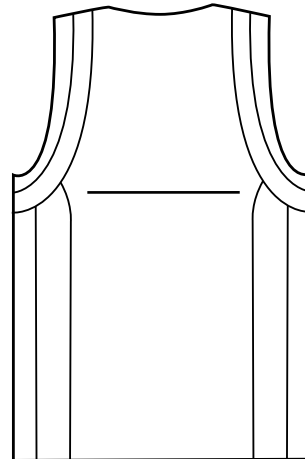
The Baldwin Chargers



clown
carries the team









Before you read these pages, complete the Day Two fluency routine for passage 4.

Guided reading

Game (pp. 18-24)


Overview: What messages is Drew getting from Fletch and Dr. Barker? Do they believe in Drew?

Vocabulary:

scrimmage: a practice game


competition: people who want to push you out

recruit: find and go after new players

 **Comprehension: Read pages 18-21, until you get to “...and he knew it.” Answer the following questions:**

What do you think Drew means when he says that his game is deep?

What do you think Fletch means when he says, “Hope you can tell me that at the end of the year”?

 **Read pages 21-24, until you get to “...even Dr. Barker would sit up and notice.” Answer the following questions:**

What is Drew’s dream?

continued 

Guided reading, continued

Summarize what happened between Drew and Dr. Barker:

WHO: _____

DID WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____

How does Dr. Barker's advice fit with Drew's dream?



Homework

Drew's dreams

In pages 18–24, we learn about Drew's dreams.

Drew goes to the principal's office and talks about different colleges. Because Drew is a senior, he has already applied. He's hoping to play college basketball.

Drew says his next dream is to play for the NBA.


Write about Drew's dreams. What could make his dreams come true? What could get in the way? What might be a problem?



Partner reading

Game (pp. 24–33)

As this chapter continues, the Chargers finish their practice and head home. See how Drew gets along with friends and family.

 Read from the bottom of page 24, “There were three reporters,” to the top of page 26, “He got put off big time.”

Summarize with your partner, using the 5 Ws.

WHO _____

DID WHAT _____

WHEN _____


WHERE _____

WHY _____

The reporters and photographers work for the city newspapers. Being written up in the newspapers is called “getting press.”

Who on the team are the newspapers interested in? Who is “getting press”?


- Drew Sky Tomas


 Read from page 25, “I dug the newspapers . . .” to page 27, “What was that supposed to mean?”

Why are reporters interested in the team? _____

What is Drew thinking right now? Drew thinks that _____


Partner reading, continued


 Read from page 27 to page 30, “Tomas might have looked real good . . .”

 Turn and talk to your partner. What do we know about Tomas now?

↓ In the character log below, write some details about Tomas.

Drew's teammate, Tomas

 Read silently to the end of the chapter on page 33. When you get to the end of the chapter, stop.

 Turn and talk with your partner. What do we know about Jocelyn?

↓ In the character log below, write some details about Jocelyn.

Drew's sister, Jocelyn



Before you read these pages, complete the Day One fluency routine for passage 5.

Guided reading


Game (pp. 34-42)

Overview: How does House want to change the Chargers' game? What does this have to do with the new players?

Vocabulary:

Wadleigh: a team the Chargers will play next (WOD-lee)

tense: nervous or tight

 **Comprehension:** Read pages 34-37, until you get to “Wadleigh was having fun.” Answer the following questions:

How is House's plan working?

According to Drew, how is Tomas's game?

 **Read pages 37-42, until you get to “I started down the hill.” Answer the following questions:**

Clarify the word **nonchalanting** on p. 38.



I think nonchalanting means

Why is House mad? What does he do?

Do you think Drew did anything wrong?

Guided reading, continued

Summarize this section:

WHO: _____

DID WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____



Homework

Coach House's plan: Is it working?

What's happening:

- Coach House's plan is to use Tomas as the main shooter.
- Other players are supposed to get the ball to Tomas.
- Drew thinks that Tomas gets all the glory.
- Will Drew get to play college ball? What about his NBA dream?
- Drew tries to score, but Coach House puts him on the bench.
- The team loses to Wadleigh, 66–53.



What is Drew feeling right now?



Before you read these pages, complete the Day Two fluency routine for passage 5.



Partner reading

Game (pp. 42-50)



Read from page 42 to page 44.



Turn and talk to your partner.

Look back at page 43. Why do you think Tomas wants to give Drew a Prague soccer shirt?



Read from page 45 to page 48.



Work with your partner. Find three things that Drew finds out about Tomas and his family.

Facts about Tomas and his family:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



and Jot



Will Tomas and Drew work things out? Give your opinion with ideas from the book so far.

I think that

BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL CHARGERS BASKETBALL

Drew's team is the Baldwin Chargers. They just had their first game of the new basketball season.



With your partner, keep track of when they win or lose.



Look back at pages 38–40. Find out if Baldwin won or lost the first game.

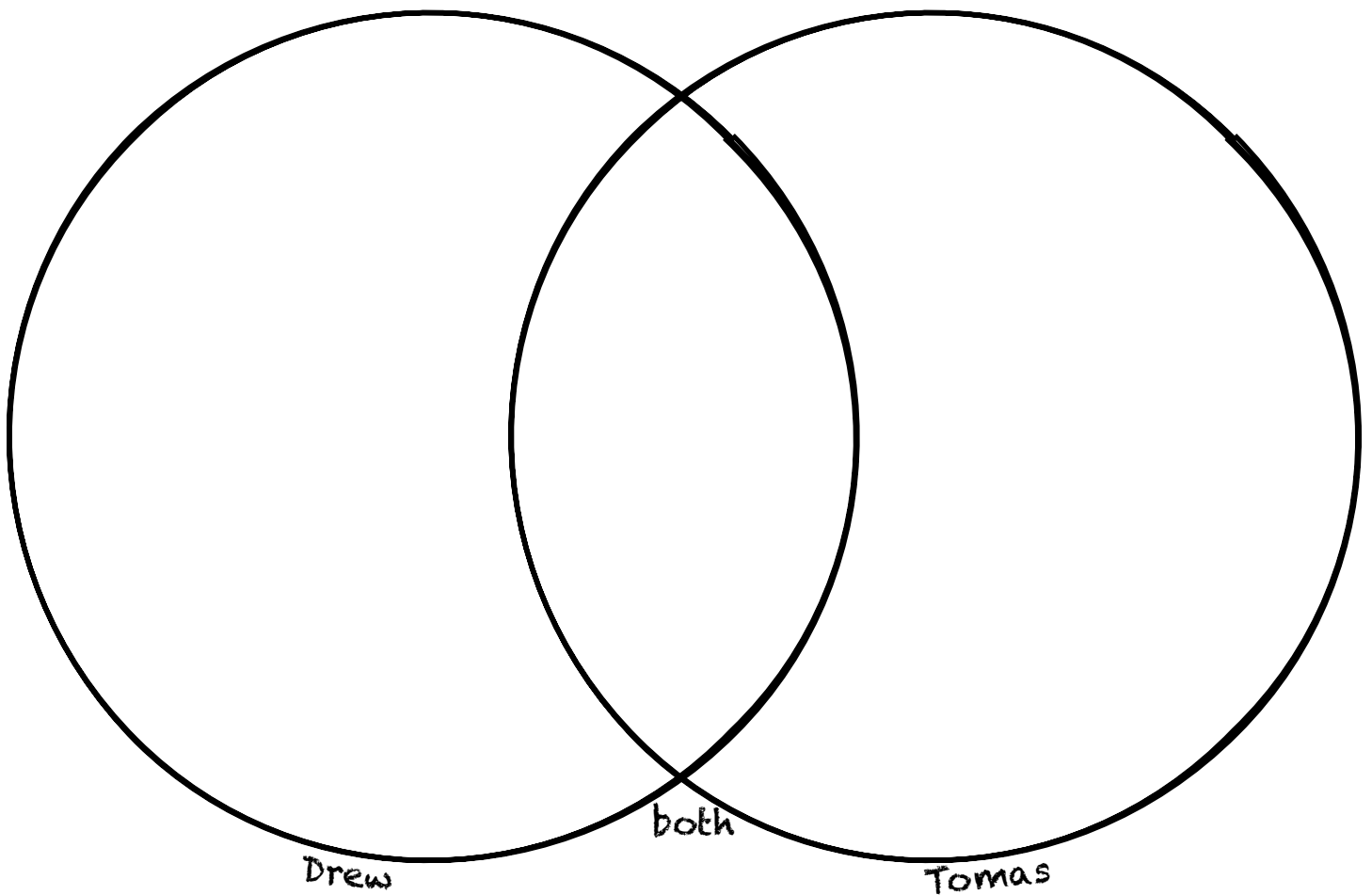
Regular season	Team	Opponent	W or L
Game 1	Baldwin		
Game 2	Baldwin		
Game 3	Baldwin		
Game 4	Baldwin		
Game 5	Baldwin		



Homework

Compare and contrast: Drew Lawson and Tomas Dvorski

Drew gets to know Tomas better in this section of *Game*. Write some things that are only true about Drew in the circle on the left. Write some things that are only true about Tomas in the circle on the right. What could go in the middle that is true about both players?



Guided reading

Game (pp. 51-60)

Overview: Try to figure out how Mr. Ferguson’s story connects to Drew.


Vocabulary:

shift: change position

signaling: sending a sign or message

initiative: when you act as a leader

distribution: giving something out

 **Comprehension: Read pages 51-54, until you get to “...it’s on him.” Answer the following questions:**

What happened on p. 53?

What can you conclude about Tomas?

 **Read pages 54-60, until you get to “...they just weren’t dealing with it.” Answer the following questions:**


Mr. Ferguson said if you don’t have a win, you might as well get out of the game. What is he talking about?

How does Drew react to Mr. Ferguson’s advice?

What do you think it takes to “stay in the game”?

Partner reading

Game (pp. 60-65)

 Read from page 60 to page 63, “I had to come up with my B plan.”

 Turn and talk with your partner.

→ What did Drew and his mother give out at the homeless shelter?

Drew helps out at the shelter, but his sister, Jocelyn, won't go. She says she doesn't like to see the homeless people.

→ Who are you more like? Would you help like Drew or stay home like Jocelyn?

I'd be like Drew

I'd be like Jocelyn

→ What's your partner's feeling about this?


more like Drew


more like Jocelyn

Drew thinks some more about the homeless man, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson says, “If you can't get a win, just get out of the game.”

→ What do you think? Will Drew just sit out on the bench this year and watch his team lose? What is Drew's plan B?

I think that

 Read from page 63, “Morning,” to page 65, “I'm big that way.”

 Talk to your partner. Write down two things you learned about Drew's family.

1. _____

2. _____



Homework

Playing the game

Drew meets a homeless man, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson says he could be lying in the street and nobody would care. Anything he once had got taken away from him. It seems to Drew that Mr. Ferguson has messed himself up with booze or drugs. Mr. Ferguson says to Drew:

“If you know you don’t have a win, then there’s no use for you being in the game.”

Mr. Ferguson is using a **metaphor**, where you connect one thing to another.

Try to complete the chart below showing what you think Mr. Ferguson really means when he says “the game” and when he says “a win.”

When Mr. Ferguson says . . .	He really means . . .
“a win”	
“the game”	

Going back home on the subway, Drew says he was really bothered by Mr. Ferguson’s words:

“If you know you don’t have a win, then there’s no use for you being in the game.”

What could Drew be thinking about? Why do Mr. Ferguson’s words bother Drew right now?



This bothers Drew because

Theme tracker

Game

What's the theme in *Game*? We don't know for sure yet. Here's one idea:

Things can get in the way of achieving your dreams, but you have to keep trying.

With your partner, look back at pages 1-65 in *Game*.

- Find one quote (something a character says) that fits with this theme.
- Find one story happening (something that characters do) that fits with this theme.
- Explain how the quote or happening tells you about the theme.

Theme: <i>Things can get in the way of achieving your dreams, but you have to keep trying.</i>		
↓ Quote or happening	↓ Page number	↓ How does the quote or happening connect to the theme?
"All I needed to do was live up to my ability."	8	Drew has the skills to play college and pro ball but needs to stay on track.

Theme tracker, continued

↓ Quote or happening	↓ Page number	↓ How does the quote or happening connect to the theme?

Theme tracker, continued

↓ Quote or happening	↓ Page number	↓ How does the quote or happening connect to the theme?



Before you read these pages, complete the Day One fluency routine for passage 6.

Guided reading

Game (pp. 65-73)

Overview: Is it okay to break the rules to stay in the game? See what you think.

Vocabulary:

dominated: ruled over or controlled

revving: getting ready to go at full speed

tempo: speed

momentum: keeping the pace up



Comprehension: Read pages 65-67, until you get to "...could turn a brother's head inside out." Answer the following question:

Do you think that Othello and Drew are in similar situations? Why or why not?



Read pages 67-71, until you get to "House turned away." Answer the following questions:

Clarify the word **glowering** on p. 71.



I think **glowering** means _____

Who is glowering? _____

How is Coach House feeling?

What is Coach House's plan for the Chargers this year?

Guided reading, continued

Summarize what Drew is doing on page 70 using the 5 Ws.

WHO: _____

DID WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____

Why did House bench Drew and put Ricky in?



Read pages 71-73, until you get to “Why you throwing up some pussy shot man?” Answer the following questions:

What happens at the end of the game?

What might this mean for Drew’s dream?



Before you read these pages, complete the Day Two fluency routine for passage 6.

Partner reading


Game (pp. 74-77)

 Read from page 74 to page 75, “Ruffy said no and he meant it.”


Did Baldwin win or lose against FDA? Turn to page 67. Write the opponent’s name and add a W or L for this game.

 Turn and talk to your partner.


What is happening with Drew’s dream for Baldwin to make the playoffs?

 Look at page 74 and find the word “fuming.” Drew was “fuming” after the loss to FDA. Read the sentences before and after “fuming.”

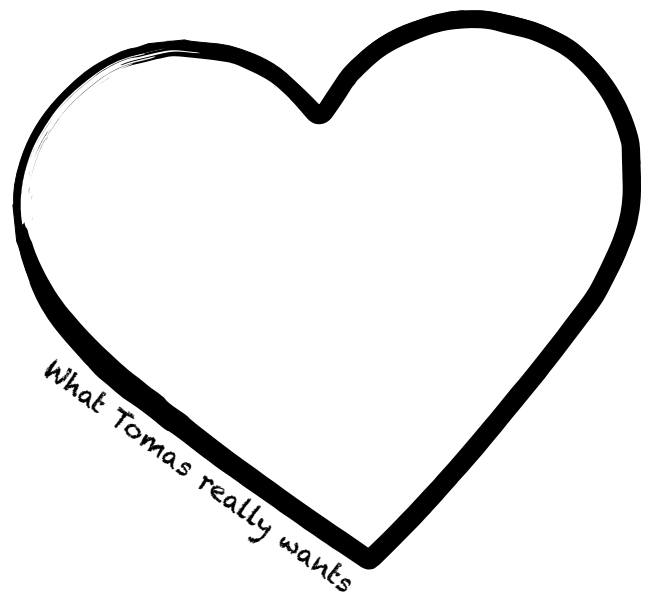
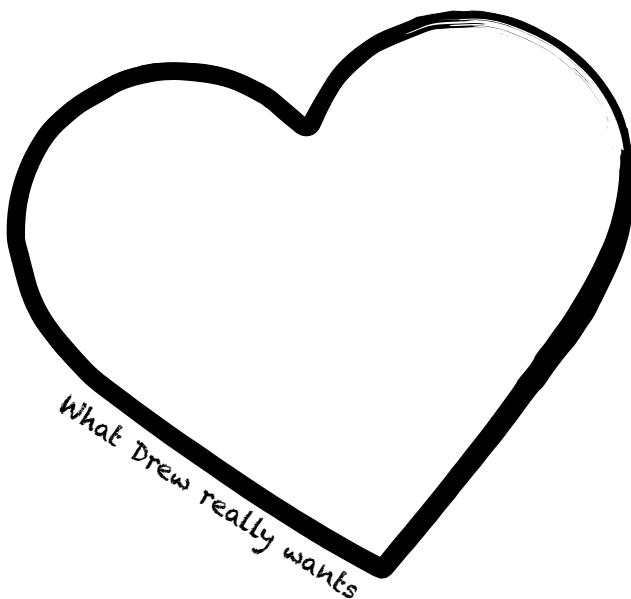
What could “fuming” mean? _____

 Read from page 75 to page 77.

After the game, Drew and Tomas talk about basketball and their dreams.

 Talk to your partner. Tomas says that there is no difference between what is in Drew’s heart and what is in his, Tomas’s heart.

Write inside the heart diagrams for the two players, using what you read on pages 75 to 77 and what you know about Drew and Tomas.



Theme

On page 76, Drew says,

“The team lost the game.” . . . “The coach, everybody.”

1. Make an entry on the theme tracker on pages 24-26
2. Use Drew’s quote.
3. Explain how the quote connects to the theme.

I made a theme tracker entry.



Homework

Why can't Baldwin win a game?

Drew has a dream that the team can go to the finals. Scouts will check him out. He will get to play college ball. From college, he can move up to the NBA.

Will Baldwin make it to the finals? So far Baldwin has lost two games.

→ Why can't Baldwin win a game?



Write 4 or 5 sentences.

Baldwin cant win because

Guided reading

Game (pp. 78-87)

Overview: How does Tony’s situation in court connect to Drew and his dreams?


Vocabulary:

evidence: proof

object: to disagree


hearing: in court, a meeting to get the facts out before a trial

suspicious: something that doesn’t feel right

 **Comprehension: Read pages 78-80, until you get to “...I hope he has some money when he gets here.” Answer the following questions:**

Would you like Jocelyn in real life? Why or why not?

Why do Jocelyn and Drew’s mom disagree about Tony? Who do you think is right?

 **Read pages 80-87, until you get to “We didn’t talk any more on the way home.” Answer the following questions:**

Summarize what happened in the hearing.

WHO: _____

DID WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____

Guided reading, continued

Clarify the word **felon** on p. 83.



I think felon means


Clarify the phrase “the max” on p. 87.

I think “the max” means

Partner reading

Game (pp. 88–95)

This chapter starts at school with Drew and his friends. Then Coach House and Drew have lunch together.

 Read from page 88 to page 90, “That was stupid . . .”

 Turn and talk with your partner. Drew and his friends are using a computer at school.

→ Write the name of each of his friends next to each face.

→ Put a star next to the basketball players.





What are Drew and the other boys talking about? _____

Do you think Drew is starting to be friends with Colin, the new White player? Give your reasons.

We think Drew

Partner reading, continued

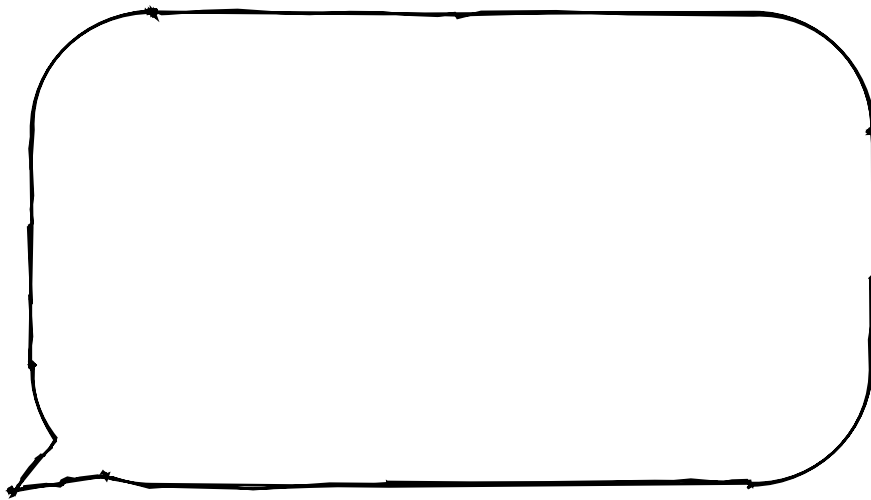
 Read from page 90 to page 95.

 Turn and talk to your partner. Drew and Coach House eat lunch at Tacky's.

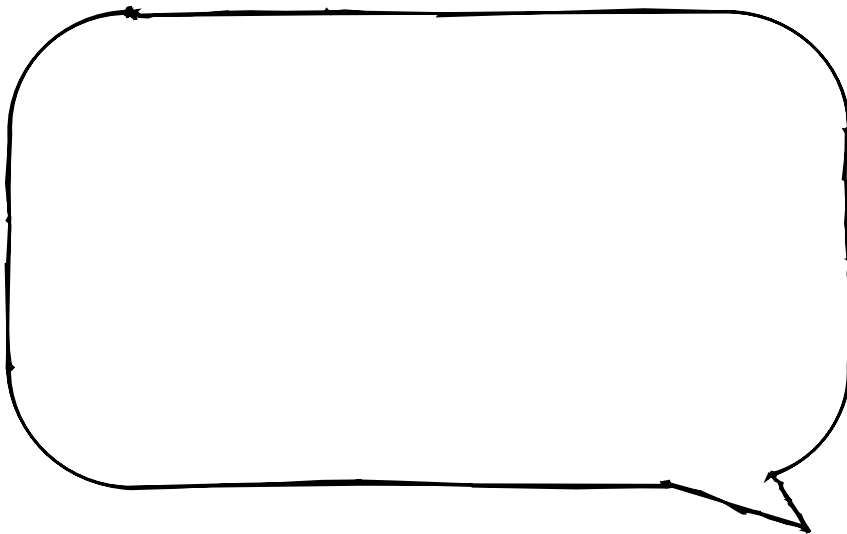
In the speech bubbles:

→ Write the most important thing Drew says.

→ Write the most important thing Coach House says.



Drew



Coach House



Homework

Time sequence

In many stories, one event starts things off.

In *Game*, that event is two new players joining the team, Tomas and Colin. With new players, Coach House changes the way the team plays.

↓ Add some events that happen after the new players join.

Tomas and Colin join the team.



Drew talks with Coach House at lunch.

Take a Position!

Should Drew follow Coach House's plan?

Coach House had a new plan for the Chargers. He wants Drew and the other guards to pass the ball to the tall players close to the net. House's plan calls for more scoring from Tomas and the other big men, and less scoring from Drew.

Drew isn't buying into the plan, however. While Drew and his friends complain about Coach House, the team keeps losing.

Is House's plan a good one? Should Drew get with the plan?

Circle the position that seems best to you.

→ House has a good plan and Drew should follow it.

→ House's plan won't work. Drew should just play his own game.

Support your position with evidence

→ Write the position you chose here: _____



Find a quote or fact from the book that supports the position you chose. Choose a quote from the pages below, or find your own powerful quote or fact.

page	quote or fact
37	Coach House tries his plan for the Chargers against Wadleigh
38-39	Drew scores over Stoneface
40-41	Fletcher says players should listen to their coach <i>Check out p. 19 for important details about Fletch</i>
53	Drew scores over Tomas in practice
71	Coach House speaks to Drew at halftime in the FDA game
73	Tomas misses a shot at the rim
75-76	Tomas and Drew talk after the Chargers lose to FDA
78	Jocelyn checks out House's plan
95	Coach House says what Fletch thinks about Drew's game

↓ Quote or fact that backs up my position	↓ Page number	↓ Explain your choice



Before you read these pages, complete the Day One fluency routine for passage 7.

Guided reading

Game (pp. 96-105)

Overview: Is Drew following Coach House’s new plan?

Vocabulary:

rely: count on

violation: breaking a rule, like staying close to the basket for more than 3 seconds

wagged: moved back and forth

offensive: scoring against the other team

transition: a change; in basketball, getting the ball from the other team and trying to score



Comprehension: Read pages 96-101, until you get to “...lift them to a 20-9 first quarter lead.” Answer the following questions:

Who has the momentum right now, Baldwin or Warrick?

Summarize the game so far:

WHO: _____

DID WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____



Read pages 101-105, until you get to “Fast breaks don’t come out of thin air.” Answer the following questions:

Why didn’t Drew start?

Guided reading, continued

Why do you think House puts Drew in for the second half?

What happens when Drew enters the game?



Before you read these pages, complete the Day Two fluency routine for passage 7.

Partner reading

Game (pp. 105–113)

See if the Baldwin Chargers win the game and if Drew gets to play.



Before you start reading, discuss your prediction about this basketball game with your partner.

- We both think the Chargers will beat Warrick.
- We both think Warrick will win.
- We don't agree on which team will win.



Read from page 105 to page 108.



Turn and talk with your partner.

In the middle of this hard game against Warrick, Drew says, “I got this feeling that I was right where I wanted to be in the world.”

→ What makes Drew happy right there?

Drew also says who was going to win depends on who had the most heart and the most game.

→ How does Drew show he has heart in this game against Warrick?



Read from page 108 to page 113, “‘No, she’s working downtown tonight,’ he said.”



Find the chart of the Chargers’ record on page 67 and record the opponent name from this game. Add a W or L for whether the Chargers won or lost this game.

→ What do you notice about the Chargers’ win/loss record?

→ What did Assistant Coach Fletch say on page 103 that fired up the team?



Homework

What's your advice to Drew?

Coach House does not let Drew start the game against Warrick High. Do you think Coach House did the right thing? What advice would you give Drew?

→ First, complete the table.

<i>Coach House did not let Drew start because:</i>	<i>Drew thought Coach House was being unfair because:</i>

→ Do you agree with Coach House or with Drew?

I agree with _____ because _____

What's your advice for Drew?

Guided reading

Game (pp. 113-122)


Overview: As you read, think about the choices Drew will have to make.

Vocabulary:

designer: someone who plans and creates clothing or furniture

annoyed: bothered

regional: competition between the best teams from one area

 **Comprehension:** Read pages 113-118, until you get to “I also wondered what House had said to him.” Answer the following questions:

Summarize the dinner at Drew’s house.


WHO: _____

DID WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____


 Look on page 114. Find a quote that tells how Drew feels about basketball.

My quote is: _____

What did House tell Tomas about the team’s chances?

Why is Tomas sharing this with Drew?

Guided reading, continued

 Read pages 119-122, until you get to “...and then started walking uptown.”
Answer the following questions:

Tony talks about his choices. What are they?

Drew thinks that Tony’s talk “smells foul.” What does that mean?

 Add something to the **theme tracker** on pages 24-26.

Partner reading

Game (pp. 123–131)

The Baldwin Chargers play more games. See how the team does. Will they make the playoffs?

 Read from page 123 to page 127.


 Turn and talk to your partner.

Who won the game? Fill out the scoreboard below.

SCOREBOARD	
Baldwin	Wheatley
W or L	W or L


How did Drew feel about this game?

 Read from page 126 to page 127.

 Talk to your partner.

SCOREBOARD	
Baldwin	Tech
W or L	W or L

How did Drew feel about this game?

 Read from page 128 to page 131, “. . . pivoted on one foot and walked away.”

→ Who is Assistant Coach Fletch working with after practice? How would you guess Drew feels about this special attention?

Theme tracker

Think about the theme:

Things can get in the way of achieving your dreams, but you have to keep trying.



Look back at page 126. Find something Drew says about the team that would fit in the theme tracker.



Make a theme tracker entry on pages 24-26. Explain how the quote connects to the theme.



I made a theme tracker entry.



Homework

Is the team coming together?

Think back to Baldwin's last three games.

- The Chargers beat Warrick after losing two games with their new players. It was a close, up-and-down game. The Chargers won when Tomas scored a two-pointer. Tomas scored because Drew got him the ball.
- The Chargers beat Wheatley. Wheatley was a weak team. The Chargers won by 14 points. Drew thought the Chargers could have done better.
- The Chargers beat Tech in an easy game. Tech also wasn't a good team. But Tech had one tough player, Cleo Hill. Hill was able to shut down Drew.

Which game would you have liked to watch the most? Why?

What do you think was a turning point for the Chargers? Why did they start winning games? Give reasons for your answer.



Before you read these pages, complete the Day One fluency routine for passage 8.

Guided reading

Game (pp. 131-139)

Overview: What makes for a good team? Are the Baldwin Chargers a good team?

Vocabulary:

sluggish: slow

unfamiliar: strange

discord: conflict



Comprehension: Read pages 131-135, until you get to “...when I realized the ref hadn’t called a foul.” Answer the following questions:

How is Drew doing on the court?

Why is Drew feeling this way?

How is Tomas playing?

What happens to Drew’s dream if the team loses?



Read pages 135-139, until you get to “...we’re going to leave the building.” Answer the questions on the next page:

Guided reading, continued

Summarize what happened with Tomas and Drew as the game was ending.

WHO: Drew

DID WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____

Why do you think Tomas is in a rage?



Add something to the **theme tracker** on pages 24-26.



Before you read these pages, complete the Day Two fluency routine for passage 8.



Partner reading

Game (pp. 140–145)

The team still has games to play before the playoffs. Will the team come together after Drew and Tomas fight?



Read from page 140 to page 143, “I was down with that.”

Ruffy thinks that Tomas has had things “handed to him,” meaning that Tomas has had an easy life.



Talk to your partner about this. Has Tomas had an easy life?

We think this is true.


We think this is not true.




Was it okay for Drew to grab the ball away from Tomas at the end of the game? Look back at pages 142 and 143.

It was right for Drew to grab the ball away because . . .	It was wrong for Drew to grab the ball away because . . .
1. the clock was running down and Tomas might not get a shot.	1. Tomas was waiting on purpose for the clock to almost run down. He was ready to take the winning shot.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Partner reading, continued

 Read page 143, “Lying across my bed . . .” to page 145.

 Talk with your partner. What’s happening **off the court** that might be messing with Drew’s game?

Use some of the 5 Ws to summarize what happened.

WHO _____

DID WHAT _____

WHY _____

Theme tracker

 Make a theme tracker entry on pages 24-26.

Write something important that someone says or does at practice (page 145).

Explain how the quote or happening connects to the theme.

I made a theme tracker entry.

Guided reading

Game (pp. 146-152)

Overview: As you read, pay attention to how Drew and Tomas are playing together.

Vocabulary:

fascinated: very interested

frustrating: so difficult it makes you angry

antique: more than 100 years old



Comprehension: Read pages 146-149, until you get to “Man, he could pitch.” Answer the following questions:

Look back at p. 147. What happened in the game?

How are things between Drew and Tomas?

Who is Mr. Cephus? Why is Drew **fascinated** by him?



Read pages 149-152, until you get to “...beginning with the Negro Leagues.” Answer the following questions:

What was Mr. Cephus’ dream?

Guided reading, continued

When he failed, what did he do?

Does Mr. Cephus have a message for Drew? What is it?





Add something to the **theme tracker** on pages 24-26.

Partner reading

Game (pp. 152-159)

The team continues to play ball. See how well they do.


 Read from page 152 to page 157, “Think, my lord.”

 Drew and his team find out there will be a big game between the two best teams in their league. Look back at pages 152 and 153.


→ Who are the best teams now? _____

Break up the compound word showdown. Put a slash between the base words:

showdown


 Look back at page 154. How many free shots does each player make out of 50 tries?


Drew: _____ Colin: _____ Tomas: _____

 Talk to your partner.

→ What might Drew be thinking and feeling right now?

We think he might be

 Read from page 157 to page 159. The big showdown with Bryant starts.

 Talk to your partner.

Who is ahead in the game so far?

Baldwin Bryant

What problems are Drew and Tomas having? We notice that they

Who do you predict will win the big game?

Baldwin Bryant

Theme tracker

Think about the theme:

Things can get in the way of achieving your dreams, but you have to keep trying.



Find something important that Coach House says to the team.



Make a theme tracker entry on pages 24-26. Explain how the quote connects to the theme.



I made a theme tracker entry.



Before you read these pages, complete the Day One fluency routine for passage 9.

Guided reading

Game (pp. 160-168)

Overview: Why are the Baldwin Chargers playing better now?

Vocabulary:

establish: start, set up

situation: how things are going

hesitation: pausing, holding back

 **Comprehension:** Read pages 160-165, until you get to “I was pushing onto some heavy reality.” Answer the following questions:

How are the Chargers playing?

What happens if the Chargers lose?

What happens if the Chargers win?

 **Read pages 165-168, until you get to “...a shot from the paint that rolled in.” Answer the following questions:**

Summarize what happens between Drew and the tall white woman.

WHO: _____

DID WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____

Guided reading, continued

Clarify the word **scout** on p. 166.



I think scout means _____

Why is this an exciting moment for Drew?

How are both teams playing?



Before you read these pages, complete the Day Two fluency routine for passage 9.

Partner reading

Game (pp. 168–176)

There's just minutes left to go in the game against Bryant.



Read from page 168 to page 172.



With your partner, re-read out loud the section on page 171 that starts, "I went up as hard as I could ..."

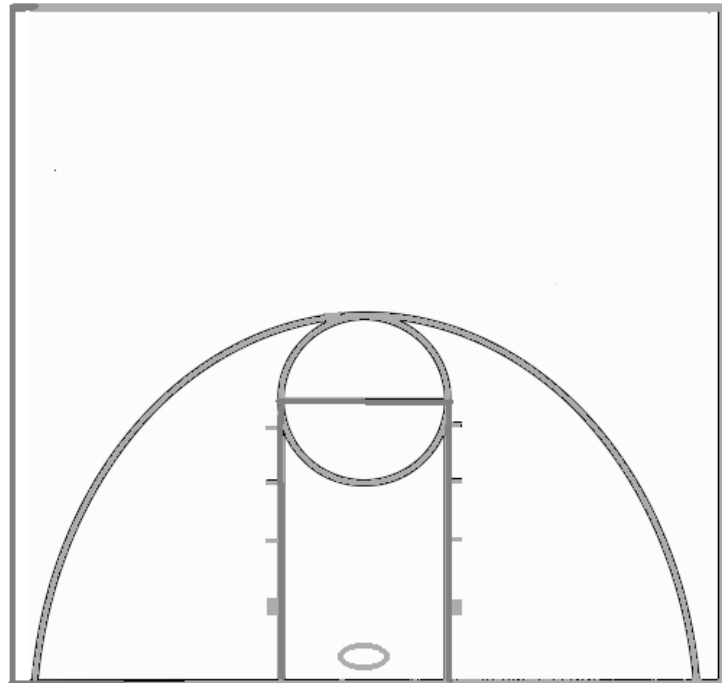
You read one sentence, then your partner reads one sentence. Keep going until the end of the game.

Use the sentences on page 171 to help with placing Drew, Boogie, and Tomas on the basketball court.



Talk to your partner.

- Draw an **X** where you think Drew might be in this picture.
- Draw an **O** where Boogie might be.
- Put a **Y** where Tomas could be.



The Baldwin Chargers win the game.

Who scored the final basket? _____

Partner reading, continued



Talk to your partner.

After Baldwin beats Bryant, a short round guy says to Drew, “You’re a player, Lawson.” The man tells Drew they’ll be getting to know each other.

→ Who do you think this short round guy is?

We think he is

→ Why is he interested in Drew now?

The whole school gets excited for the playoffs.



Read from page 173 to page 176.

→ Who does Drew see talking to Tomas after practice? _____

Theme tracker

A lot of important things happened in page 168–176. Decide on one happening that connects to the theme:

Things can get in the way of achieving your dreams, but you have to keep trying.

Make a theme tracker entry on pages 24-26. Explain how the story happening connects to the theme.

I made a theme tracker entry.



Homework

Drew's dreams

Now that Baldwin has been winning, Drew's dreams seem like they might come true.

Put Drew's dreams in order with a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Use 1 for the dream that would happen first, then 2 for what would happen next, etc.

- _____ get drafted onto an NBA team
- _____ get noticed by college scouts
- _____ get a college scholarship
- _____ win the city regionals
- _____ play in the New York state finals

Make a prediction:

➔ Which of these dreams will really come true for Drew?

I think _____

Guided reading

Game (pp. 177-185)


Overview: As you read, pay attention to how Drew and Tomas are playing together.

Vocabulary:

righteous: good

going through the motions: doing something without really caring

mo: short for momentum, when a team gets into a scoring pattern

 **Comprehension: Read pages 177-181. Answer the following questions:**

How does it feel for the Chargers to be playing in the Coliseum?

How is Drew handling himself?

Does Drew respect Lady of Mercy's game?

 **Read pages 181-185, until you get to "Roosevelt didn't seem serious." Answer the following questions:**

How was the team feeling after the Mercy win?

Guided reading, continued

Describe the Roosevelt team.

On p. 185, Drew says that you can't beat a team one against five. What does he mean?

What does the attitude of the Roosevelt players seem to be? Why does it bother Drew?



Add something to the **theme tracker** on pages 24-26.

Partner reading

Game (pp. 185–190)

Drew and his team finish the game with Roosevelt. Then Drew talks to his family about the game.

 Read from page 185 to page 186.

 Turn and talk with your partner.

→ How does Drew think the Roosevelt team is playing? What does he think the Roosevelt players are doing?

Drew thinks

Theme tracker

Drew didn't like how the new coach ran practice. But now, on page 186, Drew says "Everything we had done in practice came in." Decide on one quote or one happening that connects to the theme:

Things can get in the way of achieving your dreams, but you have to keep trying.

Make a theme tracker entry on pages 24-26. Explain how the quote or story happening connects the theme.

I made a theme tracker entry.

Partner reading, continued

 Read from page 187 to page 190, “there was a slight chill in the air.”

Drew goes out to share the good news with his neighborhood. On page 190, he sees some guys on the stoop, the front steps of his apartment building. Summarize what Drew saw:

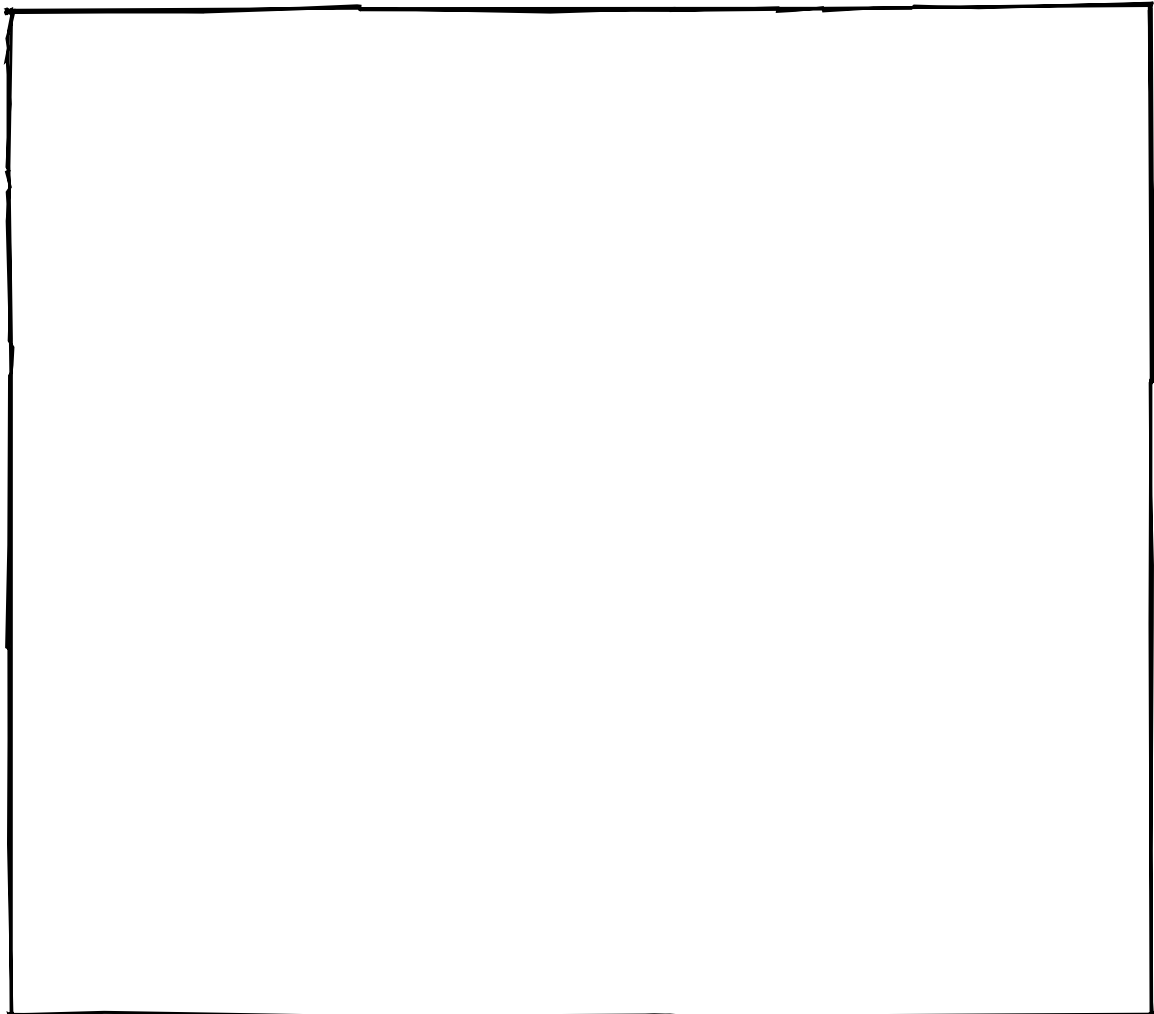
WHO _____

DID WHAT _____

WHERE _____

WHY _____

Draw a sketch in the box of what Drew saw happening outside:





Before you read these pages, complete the Day One fluency routine for passage 10.

Guided reading

Game (pp. 191-198)

Overview: How are the Baldwin Chargers playing differently now?

Vocabulary:

react: answer or respond

hustle: putting out extra effort in sports

routine: a usual way of doing things



Comprehension: Read pages 191-195, until you get to “...nine guys in the first quarter.” Answer the following questions:

What has happened so far in the game?

Look back at pp. 191-192. What bothers Drew about the guys selling things in front of his house?

What do you need to be successful? What are some skills that help you win in basketball *and* in life?



Read pages 195-198, until you get to “...wasn’t giving up squat.” Answer the following questions:

How is this big playoff game going?

Guided reading, continued

Clarify **showboat** on p. 195.



I think **showboat** means _____

How should you handle stress on the court? Do you have any advice for Drew?



Add something to the **theme tracker** on pages 24-26.



Before you read these pages, complete the Day Two fluency routine for passage 10.

Partner reading

Game (pp. 198–202)

The team continues in the playoffs against Lane High School. Will they win?

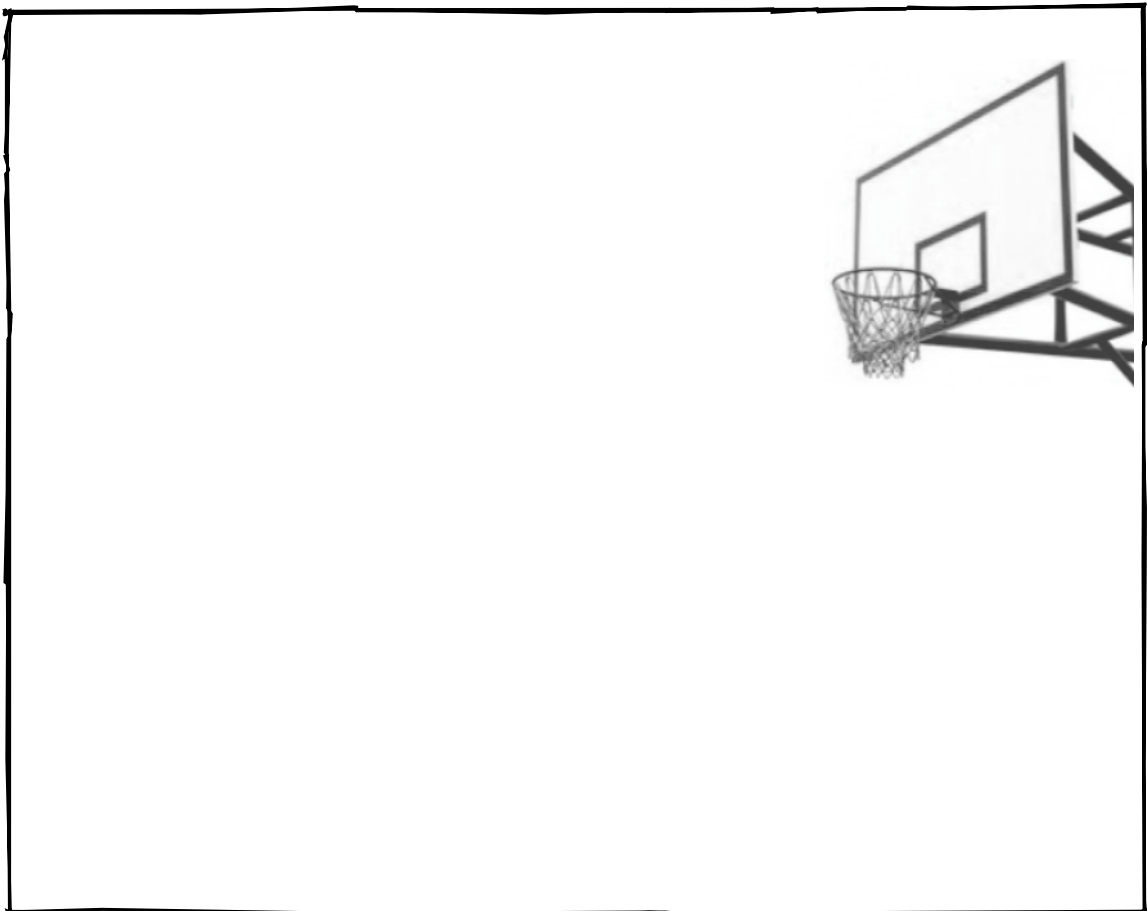
Read from page 198 to page 200, “everybody on our bench was on their feet.”

Turn and talk to your partner.

→ What did Sky do when he “slammed”?

Look back at page 200. What did it look like when the Lane player and Drew both went up for the ball?

Sketch what you might see:



Coast to coast—running with the ball from the other team’s basket to your team’s basket

Partner reading, continued



Read from page 201 to page 202.



Turn and talk with your partner.

→ Who will win the game, Baldwin or Lane?

Baldwin

Lane

Why? Back up your prediction. Be sure to include the page number where you found this information.

We think _____ will win because it says _____

Guided reading

Game (pp. 203-212)

Overview: How does the big game end? Who do you think was responsible?

Vocabulary:


console: comfort, make someone feel better

numb: not feeling anything

NCAA: the group that runs college sports

full ride: a scholarship that includes all living expenses

character: personal strength

 **Comprehension: Read pages 203-204. Answer the following questions:**

What happened?

When did you know that Baldwin had lost? What words in the text let us know the outcome of the game?

Why do good teams sometimes lose?

 **Read pages 205-212, until you get to "...let them know as soon as possible." Answer the following questions:**

What happens to Tomas, Ernie and Sky?

Guided reading, continued

Why do Father Gabaccia and Coach Mickey Burns come to Drew's home?

Why did DePaul choose Drew?


Do you think DePaul would have chosen Drew if he had been a showboat in the final game?

In the end, who was a better player, Drew or Tomas? Why?

Partner reading

Game (pp. 212–218)

As the book ends, Drew decides about college and thinks about the future.

 Read from page 212 to page 215, “I tried to act more confident than I felt.”

 Turn and talk to your partner.

→ What does Fletch mean when he says that sometimes the ball doesn’t always bounce the way you want it to?

We think this means that

Drew says he does not feel that confident about going to college.

→ What do you think “confident” means here? Use the context clues.

Confident probably means

→ Why do you think Drew does not feel very confident about college?

He might

 Read from page 216 to page 217.


 Turn and talk with your partner.

→ Fletch tells Drew to “represent.” What do you think represent means here?

Represent probably means

→ What will Drew do in college to represent?

Drew can

 Read to page 218. Trade off reading the last lines with your partner.

We did this!

The team talks back!

Drew kept his dream alive. What about the other Chargers?

At the end of *Game*, Drew gets picked for the college team at DePaul University. DePaul gives Drew a full scholarship. DePaul isn't the top college that Drew wished for, but it's Division I. Playing DI college ball, Drew can get noticed by NBA scouts. He's on his way to reaching his dreams.

When his teammates and coaches hear Drew's news, how do they feel? What might they say to Drew?

➔ What's happening with the characters?



Look back at *Game*, especially pages 205-218. Use Post-its to mark pages that help you know what's going on. Focus on college hopes for each player and reactions we hear from the coaches.

Write down one or more facts or quotes from *Game*.

Character Notes		
Drew		p. _____
Ruffy		p. _____
Tomas		p. _____
Sky		p. _____
Coach House		p. _____
Fletch		p. _____

The team talks back!

What will they think? What will they say?

Now, you'll use the character notes to invent a conversation between Drew and one of the other characters: Ruffy, House, Tomas, Fletch, or Sky. You'll write what Drew says about his good news. You'll also write what the other character might say.

You will work in partners.

One partner will be
Drew.

The other partner will be
Ruffy, House, Tomas,
Fletch, or Sky.

- With your partner, talk over what's going on between your two characters at the end of the book. Talk about what the two characters might be thinking, and what they might say.
- If you are Drew, write notes on page 74. If you are Ruffy, House, Tomas, Fletch, or Sky, write notes on page 75. Think about how the other character might be feeling as you plan what your character will say.
- Practice your two characters' speech bubbles as a dialogue like this:

Drew: Yo, Sky, I got a college offer from DePaul.

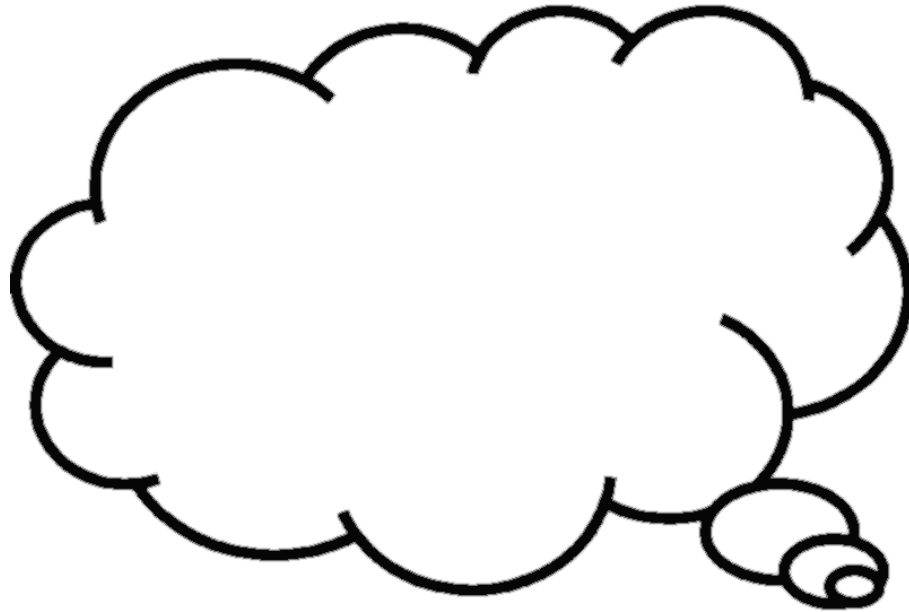
Sky: I knew the college scouts would notice you! That's sweet.

- Present your dialogue to the class.

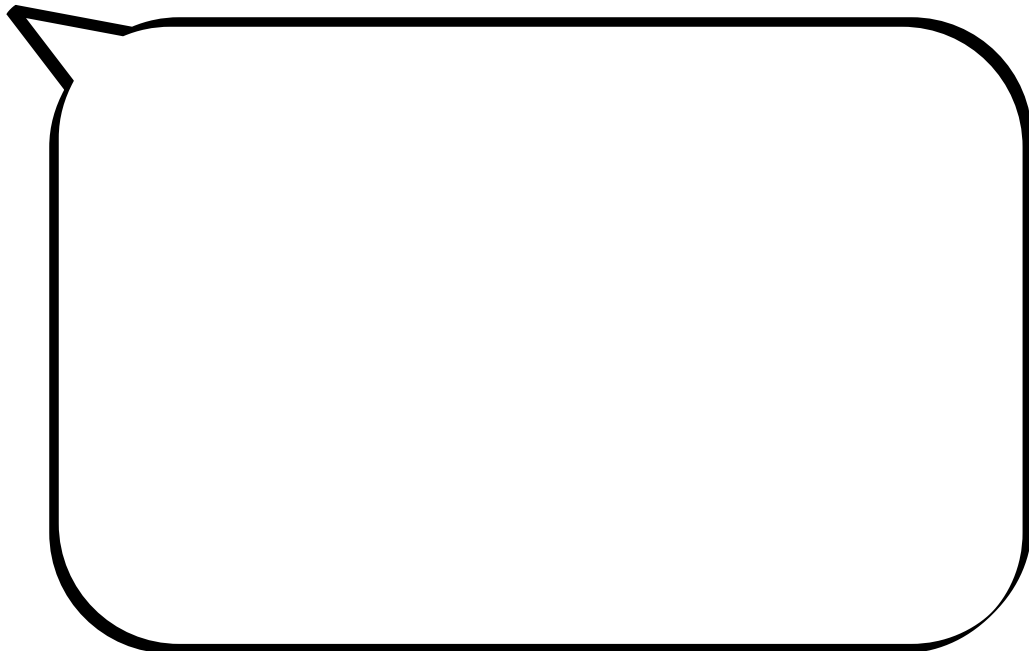
What would Drew think? What would he say?

My character is Drew.

What does he think about sharing his good news with _____?



What would he say to _____?

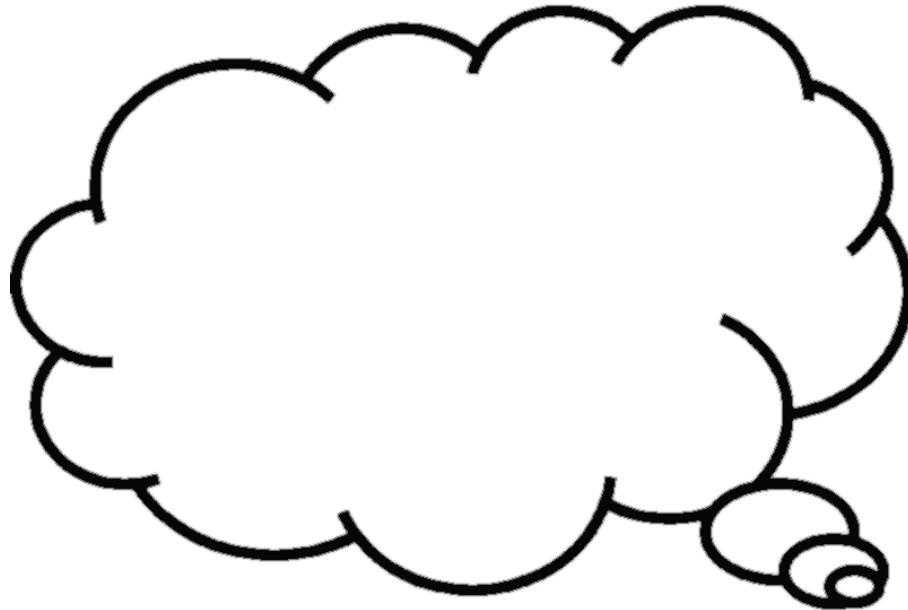


What would they think? What would they say?

My character is _____.

*Write Ruffy OR House OR
Tomas OR Fletch OR Sky.*

What would he think about Drew's success?



What would he say to Drew?

