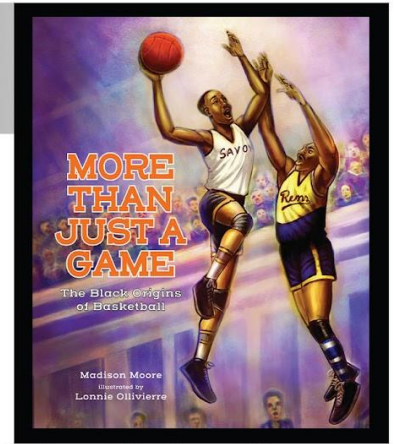


Teacher's Instructional Guide



Author: Madison Moore
Illustrator: Lonnie Ollivierre

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading:

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Before you Read:

Assess Prior Knowledge:

Find out what your students already know about the game of basketball and its players. There will most likely be a wide range of knowledge among your students. Discuss what they like about the game, as well as their favorite players. This will be a good segway into the origins of the game.

As You Read:

Monitor Students:

Whenever we read about inequality, students will have reactions and questions. Take the time to hear their voices and pause to let them verbalize their reactions to the inequalities that were present at the outset of the sport of basketball, as well as any other instances they may recall or have prior knowledge of.

Students may make connections between the Black Fives teams and the Negro Baseball League. There are many resources and texts available to incorporate this text into a broader unit on inequality in sports.

After Reading:

Share student reactions/thoughts:

After reading, have a discussion with students about how the contributions and efforts of the Black Fives teams were not recognized by the Basketball Hall of Fame, and how coaches and owners were excluded from the National Basketball Association. The book mentions that without these owners, coaches and players from the Black Fives teams we would not have the current basketball stars we know and cheer for today.

Text Dependent Questions:

Asking text dependent questions enables students to draw on specific examples from the text to provide evidence and verify the rationale for their answers.

What percentage of current NBA players are Black?

When was basketball invented and who invented the game?

What were some differences between those very first basketball games and today's game?

Who was it that first introduced basketball to Black players?

How was the interest in basketball connected closely to music, dance, and the Black cultural revolution?

How did the Black Fives league evolve and take shape in the 1910's and 1920's?

What event finally brought some of the Black Fives teams into direct competition with white teams?

When the NBA formed in 1949, what did they realize was the only way to move their league forward?

Did the NBA actually include everyone after it was first formed?

Some Project/Writing Extension Ideas:

Read the Black Fives Player Profiles at the end of the book, as well as the Basketball Greats Player Profiles. Discuss the importance of these players to the evolution of basketball, as well as their accomplishments and contributions to today's NBA.

Students may want to do some research on these players to create a poster project, digital slide presentation, or write a biography.