



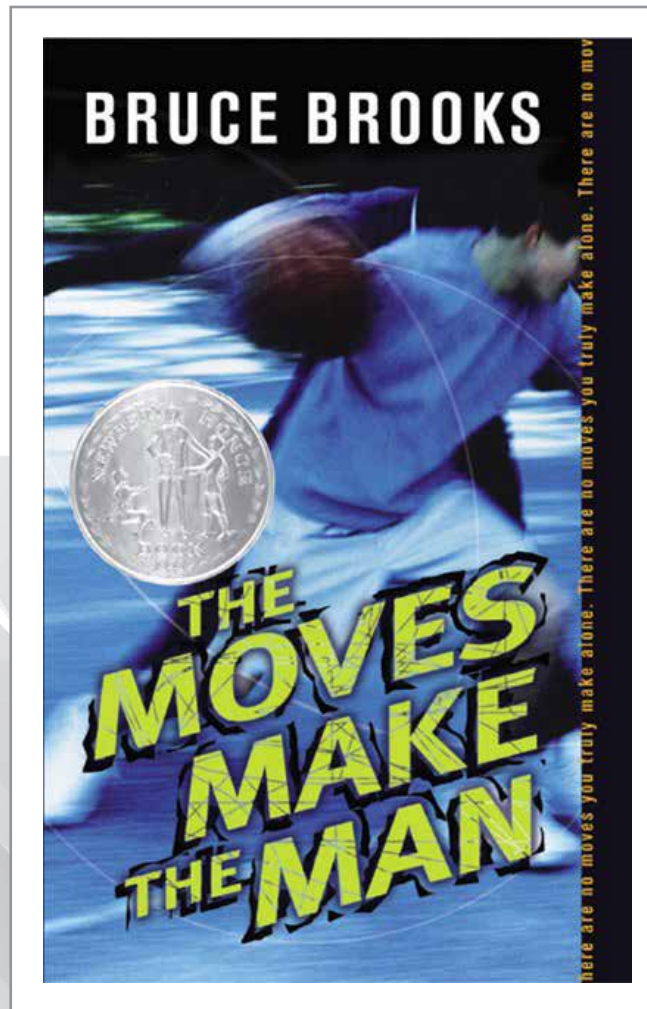
**TEACHER GUIDE**

**GRADES 9-12**

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

# **The Moves Make the Man**

Bruce Brooks



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# The Moves Make the Man

Bruce Brooks

## TEACHER GUIDE

### NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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## Skills and Strategies

### Comprehension

Predicting, comparison/  
contrast

### Writing

Descriptive, expository,  
directions

### Literary Elements

Characterization, story  
elements

### Thinking

Research, analysis

### Vocabulary

Semantic features, context  
clues, prefixes, suffixes,  
word mapping

### Listening/Speaking

Discussion

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## Summary

Published in 1984, *The Moves Make the Man* by Bruce Brooks is described on the copyright page as, "A black basketball player and an emotionally troubled white shortstop in North Carolina form a precarious friendship." Jerome Foxworthy, a black thirteen-year-old boy, tells the story of his unlikely friendship with Bix at his new school, Chestnut Street Junior High School. Chestnut Street Junior High School was officially being integrated with the inclusion of Jerome in the previously all white school. *The Moves Make the Man* focuses on the odd and peculiar nature of the relationship between Jerome and Bix, although the integration issue and the black/white comparisons are included in the book. *The Moves Make the Man* is a Newbery Honor book.

## About the Author

Bruce Brooks was born in Washington, D.C. in 1950. From age six he shuttled between his divorced parents in Washington, D.C. and North Carolina. He married Penelope Winston in 1978 and has a son, Alexander. He earned his B.A. in 1972 from the University of North Carolina and his M.F.A. in 1982 from the University of Iowa. His interests include music, nature studies, sports, and reading. He has worked as a printer, newspaper and magazine reporter, and teacher.

His fiction works include:

*Asylum for Nightface*  
*Everywhere*  
*Midnight Hour Encores*  
*The Moves Make the Man*  
*No Kidding*  
*What Hearts*

His nonfiction works include:

*Boys Will Be*  
*Making Sense: Animal Perceptions and Communication*  
*Nature by Design*  
*On the Wing: the Life of Birds: from Feathers to Flight*  
*Those who Love the Game: Glen "Doc" Rivers on a Life in the NBA and Elsewhere*

## Bulletin Board Ideas

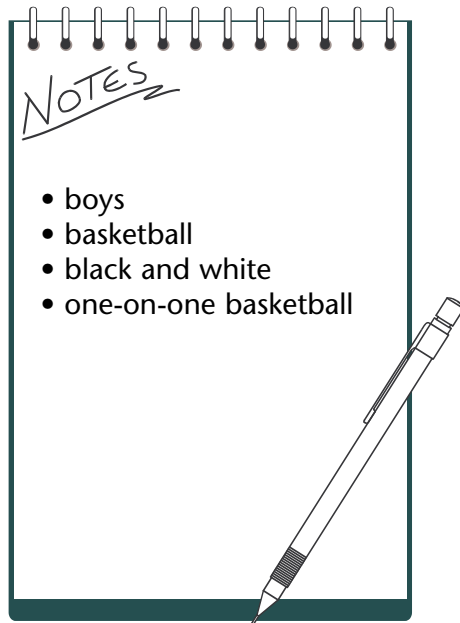
1. Sports Books: Post reviews of other sports books including recommendations from class members.
2. Interesting Characters: One sentence clues about various fiction characters for students to guess.
3. Basketball: List of terms, newspaper articles, box scores, etc.

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## Initiating Activities and Information

*Note:* It is not intended that everything presented in this guide be done. Please be selective and use discretion when choosing the activities you will do with the unit. The choices that are made should be appropriate for your use and your group of students. A wide range of activities has been provided so that individuals as well as groups may benefit.

1. Look at the quotations from various reviewers included at the beginning of the book. What do you predict for *The Moves Make the Man*?
2. Examine the cover of the book. What can you tell about the book? Who are the main characters?



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## First Part: Chapters 1-7, Pages 3-30

### Vocabulary

splotch 3	jive 4	lanyards 5	balsam 7
trespasser 9	tricksters 11	debut 14	cockiest 21
splotchy 23	metallic 24	crinkly 27	gumption 29
crude 29	scouted 30		

### Discussion Questions

1. Why does the storyteller decide to tell the story about Bix? (*Pages 4-5, Others don't understand Bix and won't tell his story.*)
2. What deficiencies does the storyteller find in white churches? (*Page 4, They hear about bad things and all the sins ever committed and they moan. People go to colored churches, by contrast, to sing.*)
3. Why do you think Bix's notebook would be useful to Jerome? (*a link to his friend, information for the story Jerome is telling*)
4. Who is telling the story? (*page 9, Jerome Foxworthy*) Describe him in one sentence. (*He's black, thirteen, smart, likes basketball, hates baseball, and has two brothers, Henri and Maurice.*)
5. How do the black and white Little Leagues differ?

Black	White
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• four teams</li><li>• play in a park with no fence</li><li>• spectators sit on porches of houses across the street</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• uniforms</li><li>• stadiums</li><li>• twenty teams</li><li>• press coverage</li></ul>

6. Who is Maurice? (*page 14, Jerome's older brother who is in college*) Why is Maurice a different kind of Little League coach? (*Pages 14-15, He acts like a psychiatrist and records crises averted instead of runs batted in.*)
7. The book is told in a "folksy manner" as a thirteen-year-old would think. Find examples from the book to support this statement.
8. Why does Bix initially attract Jerome's attention? (*Pages 18, 20, He is a great shortstop who really seems to know with his whole being how to play baseball.*)
9. How is Bix's mother weird? (*Pages 22-23, She does inappropriate things.*) How do the adults react to her? (*Page 23, They are uncomfortable.*) How does the author describe the adults' attitude?
10. Why aren't there any quotation marks in this book? (*Jerome is telling the story after it happened and the thirteen-year-old doesn't use quotation marks.*)

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11. How does Jerome miss talking to Bix? (*Page 28, The Seven-Up truck opens up with free hot dogs and beverages and Bix is gone.*) Why does missing Bix make Jerome angry? (*Page 29, He works up his nerve to talk to the shortstop but misses the opportunity.*) How does Jerome compensate? (*page 29, imagining Bix as a rich kid unwilling to mix with his teammates*)

### Supplementary Activities

1. Analysis: What's in a name? Why does the author choose Bix and Jerome for the main characters? Is Bix a nickname? What might his real name be? Why are the names of characters important? Answer in a short paragraph.
2. Research: What is the setting of the story? Where is Wilmington, North Carolina? Investigate in the library. Try writing for information on North Carolina from the Chamber of Commerce or Tourism Council.

## Second Part: Chapters 8-13, Pages 33-70

### Vocabulary

Chucks 34	bammata 34	integrated 45	jigaboo 45
principle 48	accelerated 50	mopes 52	clowns 52
damsels 55	quadratic 55	lingo 55	precise 56
appendages 57	reflexive 59	obtuse 61	symbolic 61
corporeal 61	torso 62	servitude 62	lubricated 64
deceit 64			

### Discussion Questions

1. Why is Jerome's basketball court special? (*Page 34, It is isolated, located in the middle of a forest.*)
2. How does Jerome spend the summer before junior high? (*page 35, playing hoops alone on his special court in the woods*)
3. How does Poke Peters' basketball style differ from Jerome's? (*pages 38-39*)

Poke	Jerome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trick shots</li> <li>• singing</li> <li>• not serious about basketball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• traditional shots</li> <li>• really enjoys basketball</li> <li>• trying hard to perfect his basketball technique</li> </ul>

4. How is Jerome's mother special? (*Page 40, She is observant. "...she never gets on you for what you are not doing."*)
5. Start a family attribute web on Jerome's family. Add to the webs as you continue to read. (See pages 8-10 of this guide.)