

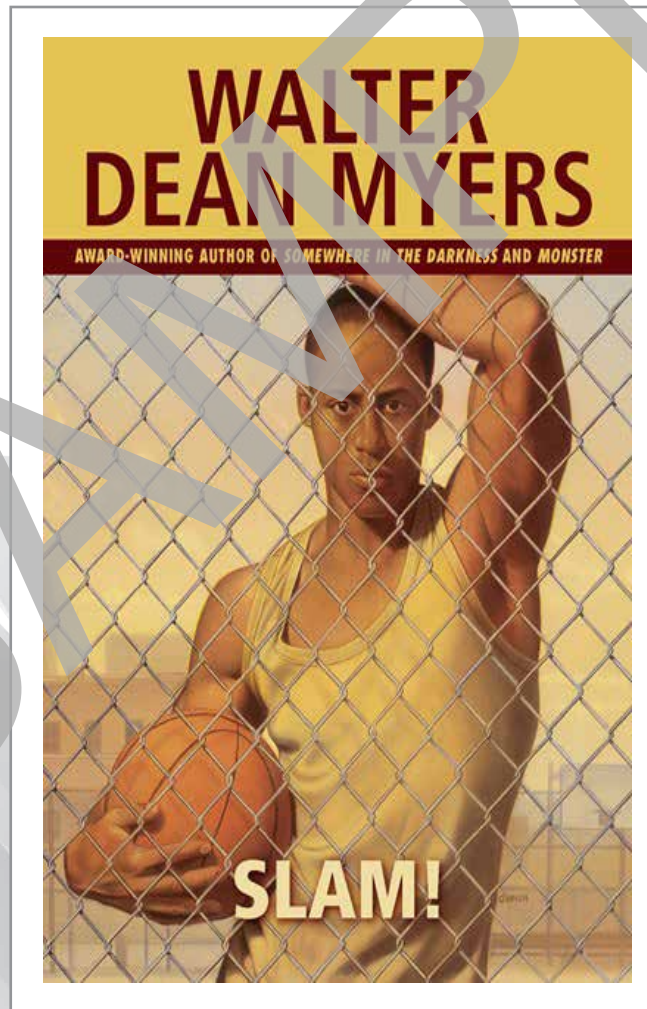


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

Slam!

Walter Dean Myers



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Slam!

Walter Dean Myers

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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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Name _____

The following words are in Chapters 1-5. They are separated into three categories: those that will be found in the dictionary, slang words, and words that relate to basketball. Identify each word by dictionary definition or through context.

Dictionary

magnet schools (7) prima donna (12) beepers (19) revolution (23)
tumor (37) tutor, *vb.* (50)

Slang

dude (4) fly (5) gig (5) diss (12)
wimps (17) scoping (19) wedgies (23) brainiacs (40)

Basketball

hook (56) deuce (56) dunk (59) "the pill" (59)

Directions: Match each word from above with the correct definition below.

- _____ 1. magnet schools
- _____ 2. prima donna
- _____ 3. beepers
- _____ 4. revolution
- _____ 5. tumor
- _____ 6. tutor
- _____ 7. dude
- _____ 8. fly
- _____ 9. gig
- _____ 10. diss
- _____ 11. wimps
- _____ 12. wedgies
- _____ 13. scoping
- _____ 14. brainiacs
- _____ 15. hook
- _____ 16. deuce
- _____ 17. dunk
- _____ 18. the pill

- A. super-smart students
- B. abnormal growth on the body
- C. to give lessons privately
- D. someone who demands special treatment
- E. beautiful, classy
- F. the basketball
- G. humiliate, question ability
- H. looking someone over
- I. weaklings
- J. schools open to students from all over the city
- K. slam basketball through goal
- L. devices to contact someone
- M. male who thinks highly of himself
- N. two-point shot
- O. imposed change in a system
- P. serious conversation
- Q. potato chips in wedge shape
- R. catch defender with elbow and spin to basket

Name _____

Directions: Write an answer to each question on separate paper. A * indicates a thought or opinion question. Use your answers during class discussion, for writing assignments, or to review for tests.

Chapter 1 (pp. 1-15)

1. Who is the narrator of the book? What is his consuming passion?
2. Identify the following: Mr. Tate, Latimer, Carver, Mr. Nipper, Mr. Goldstein, Derek, Nick, Ducky.
3. What is Slam's main problem at Latimer?
4. How many students try out for Latimer's basketball team?

Chapter 2 (pp. 16-31)

1. State the positive and negative aspects of Latimer as given in the newspaper article.
2. Identify Mtisha and Ice. Select the sentence that sums up the relationship between Slam and Ice.
3. What does Mtisha think Slam should do about Ice?

Chapter 3 (pp. 32-37)

1. *Where is Slam's grandmother? What is her reaction? Is this typical of elderly people?
2. What is Grandma's advice to Slam?

Chapter 4 (pp. 38-46)

1. How does the head coach feel about Slam? How does Slam react? Who tries to help him understand?
2. *How does Slam feel about Karen's request that he act as her art model?

Chapter 5 (pp. 47-60)

1. *Who is Richie Randall? Why does Slam react negatively to him?
2. What is Slam's role in the game against Regis?

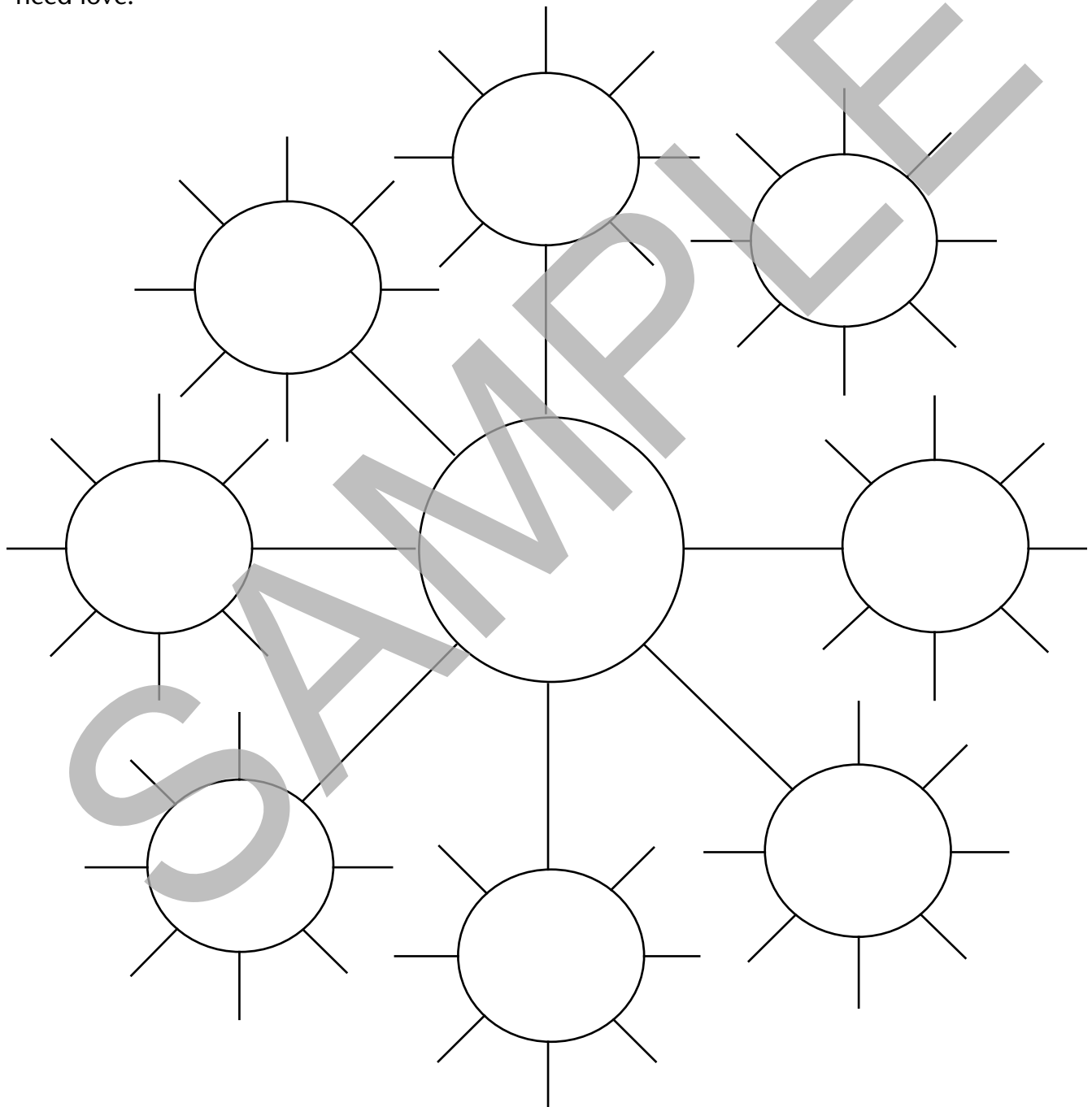
Chapter 6 (pp. 61-89)

1. What is the outcome of Latimer's game against Regis? What is Slam's role in the game? What indicates a change of attitude toward him?
2. Identify Bianca and Ceil 'Kicky'.

Name _____

Attribute Web

Directions: Place Benny "Ice" Reese in the large center circle. In the smaller circles, fill in verbs. On the lines, supply words to follow each of the verbs; for example, Ice might "need love."



Name _____

Character Analysis Chart

Directions: List some of the characters who appear in the novel in the boxes below. Add to this chart as more characters are introduced. Working with a partner or in a small group, discuss the attributes of the various characters. In each character's box, write several words or phrases you feel describe him or her.
