



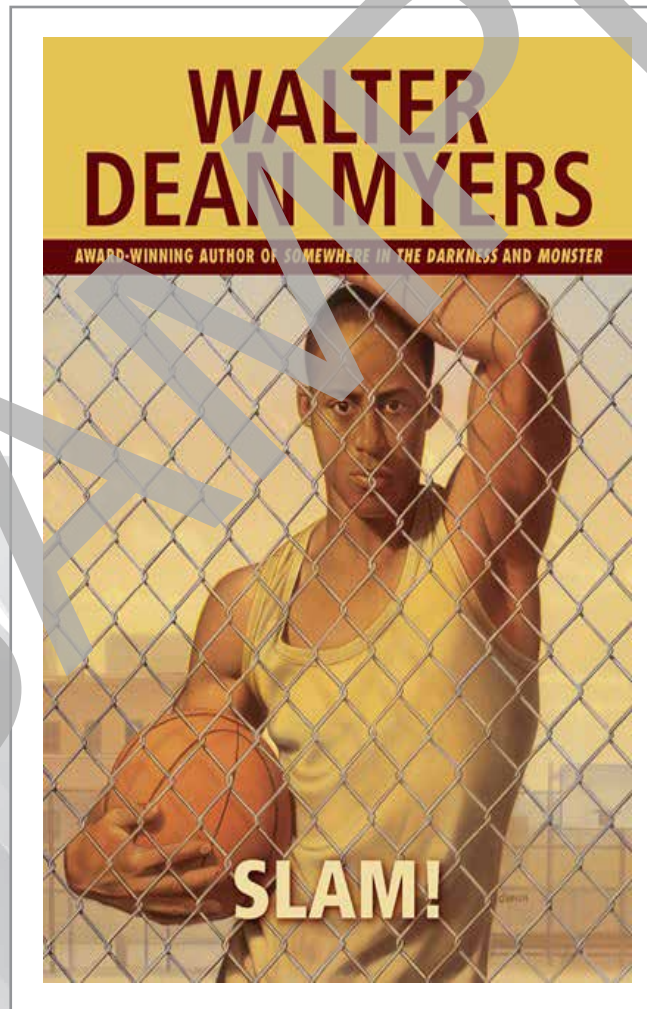
**TEACHER GUIDE**

**GRADES 9-12**

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

# Slam!

Walter Dean Myers



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

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Walter Dean Myers

## 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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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 \_\_\_\_\_

## A Character's World

**Directions:** You may be able to draw parallels between a character's world and your own. Think about each item on the top. Then describe a related situation or event from your own world on the bottom.

_____ 's World _____ _____ _____
<b>My World</b> _____ _____ _____

_____ 's World _____ _____ _____
<b>My World</b> _____ _____ _____

_____ 's World _____ _____ _____
<b>My World</b> _____ _____ _____

_____ 's World _____ _____ _____
<b>My World</b> _____ _____ _____

*Suggested topics for top section: (1) Mtisha's world: Slam creates problems in their relationship because he dates another girl. (2) Slam's world: Slam conflicts with his basketball coach and feel the coach doesn't appreciate him or his playing ability. (3) Slam's world: Slam faces problems with grades and may not be able to play basketball. (4) Ice's world: Ice is tempted by easy money and makes some unwise choices.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Attribute Web

**Directions:** Use the following blocks to characterize Greg 'Slam' Harris.

<i>Who is the character?</i>			
<i>What did the character do?</i>		<i>Why did s/he do it?</i>	
<i>Why is the character's name well chosen?</i>	<i>What is the nature of this character's actions? (reactive, active, important, consequential, secondary)</i>	<i>What is the significance of the book's time and place to the character?</i>	
<i>What is unusual or important about the character?</i>	<i>How does the character change in the story?</i>	<i>Does the character remind you of another character from another book? Who?</i>	<i>Do you know anyone similar to this character?</i>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Problem-Solving Alternatives

**Directions:** Choose the particular problems a group of characters or character encounter(s) in the book. Note those problems as well as the book character's solutions on the chart. Then add alternative solutions of your own.

Problem	The Book Character's Solution	Alternative Idea of Yours