

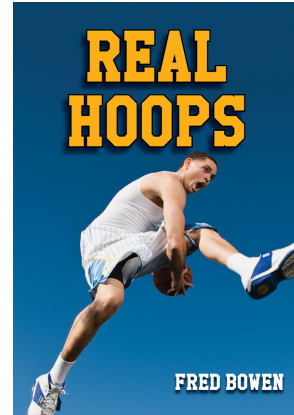
PEACHTREE
DISCUSSION GUIDE
Includes Common Core Standards Correlations

Real Hoops

Written by Fred Bowen

PB: 978-1-56145-566-9
Also available in e-book

Ages 7–12 | Realistic Fiction
AR • RC • Lexile • F&P • GRL Q; Gr 4



ABOUT THE SERIES

Fred Bowen's fast-paced middle-grade stories offer readers themes of competition, cooperation, facing change, gender roles, overcoming challenges, and new experiences. In addition, they feature play-by-play action, snappy dialogue, and engaging plots. Bowen's books are not the usual sports-fiction fare; each book loops in a little sports history and includes back matter with fascinating glimpses into that history and the heroes who made it happen.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Ben is the captain of his basketball team and he's got a problem with Hud, the most talented player on the team. Hud knows he's the best and tries to win games by hogging the ball and showing off. Can Ben convince Hud to forget his hot-shot ways and help the whole team win some games?

THEMES

Integrity | Teamwork | Responsibility
Friendship | Conflict
Sports | Basketball | The Ruckers League

WRITING PROMPTS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

aligned with Common Core Reading Standards

DIRECTIONS

Use details from the text to support ALL of your responses.

CHAPTER 1

Compare the scene at the first park with the scene at the Westwood Recreation Center (WRC). Why are Ben and Logan so excited to meet Hud?

CHAPTER 2

This is a book about a basketball team. How does a jazz orchestra compare to a basketball team? What is a solo in a jazz orchestra?

CHAPTER 3

Why does Mr. Sims say that playing on a summer team is not "real hoops"?

CHAPTER 4

Think about the coach, Mr. George. Compare the way Ben feels about Mr. George and his tryouts with the way that Hud feels about them. Do you think Mr. George and Hud will get along? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 5

Describe Donut's personality. What does Mr. Sims think of Donut? Explain.

CHAPTER 6

Look at the list of Coach George's "Team Rules." After the coach reads Rule #8, Ben says to Hud, "Guess we can't play at Westwood anymore." Why does he say that? Why doesn't Hud respond?

CHAPTER 7

What does the game tell you about the relationship between Coach George and Hud? What does the coach mean when he yells out to Hud, "Simple pass. No French Pastry."

CHAPTER 8

Looking back to chapter 6, what does Coach George expect from his captain? Ben is the team captain. What is his problem now that he has seen Hud playing basketball at the WRC?

CHAPTER 9

Ben and Logan compare the basketball team to a jazz orchestra. How does that relate to Ben's problem concerning Hud? In other words, how is a jazz orchestra a metaphor for Ben's problems with Hud?

CHAPTER 10

Why does Hud continue to break Coach George's rule about not playing pick-up basketball? Why does Ben confront Hud in the locker room? At the end of the chapter, why does Ben feel like he just lost the biggest game of the season?

CHAPTER 11

What do the last 25 seconds of the game against the Robinson Panthers tell you about Mr. George? What do they tell you about Hud?

CHAPTER 12

After Coach George puts Levon in the starting lineup, Ben notices Hud's "jaw was clenched and his eyes were blazing." Why does Hud react that way?

CHAPTER 13

How do Mr. Sims's stories about Donut, Hi-Tops, Earl "The Goat" Manigault, and The Rucker League relate to Hud's situation?

CHAPTER 14

Compare how Hud ran the play in this chapter with how he ran the play in chapter 11. What does that tell you about Hud?

CHAPTER 15

How has Ben's relationship with Donut changed from the first time he and Logan went to the WRC? How does Donut feel about his decision not to play basketball in high school?

OVERALL QUESTION

In a few words, write down what this whole story is about (the overall theme or big idea). Explain your response.

"THE REAL STORY" FOLLOW-UP QUESTION

How does the information in "The Real Story" relate to the theme or the plot of the book?

REVIEWS

"Capped by a tribute to some of New York's playground-hoops heroes, this simply written tale in the Fred Bowen Sports Story series is chock-full of suspenseful game action..."

—*Booklist*

"This easy-to-read book has a nice blend of game action, lessons in discipline, and even some actual history of Holcombe Rucker Park in New York City..."

Bowen knows sports and his audience, and he scores again with *Real Hoops*."

—*School Library Journal*

"Lots of action and play-by-play descriptions will engage young sports fans and hold their interest... sure to hook the most reluctant reader age 7–12 who just also happens to be a basketball fan."

—*Midwest Book Review*

"Local author Fred Bowen never disappoints. His many action-packed novels speak to the hearts and minds of young sports lovers, and he demonstrates know-how and grace in writing about baseball, basketball, soccer and football..."

—*Washington Parent*

AWARDS

- Young Adult Top Forty —Pennsylvania School Librarians Association
- Young Reader's Choice Awards (nominee, grades 6–8) —Pennsylvania School Librarians Association

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fred Bowen is the author of Peachtree's popular Fred Bowen Sports Story series. A lifelong sports fanatic, he has coached youth league baseball, softball, soccer, and basketball. His kids' sports column "The Score" appears each week in the KidsPost section of the *Washington Post*. Bowen lives in Maryland.

www.fredbowen.com

Available in the Fred Bowen Sports Story series

BASEBALL:

Dugout Rivals
The Golden Glove
The Kid Coach
Lucky Enough
Perfect Game
Playoff Dreams
Throwing Heat
T.J.'s Secret Pitch
Winners Take All

BASKETBALL:

The Final Cut
Full Court Fever
Hardcourt Comeback
Off the Rim
On the Line
Outside Shot
Real Hoops

SOCCER:

Go for the Goal!
Out of Bounds
Soccer Team Upset

FOOTBALL:

Double Reverse
Quarterback Season
Speed Demon
Touchdown Trouble



PEACHTREE

Discussion Guide prepared by Peggy Jackson

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