

READING ACTIVITIES



Includes:

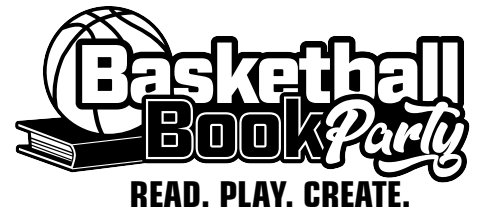
Chapter 1 Reading Activity Worksheet

Chapter 2 Reading Activity Worksheet

Chapter 3 Reading Activity Worksheet

History Of Basketball Reading Activity Worksheet

Name _____



Chapter 1 - Reading Activity

Read the story and complete the questions and word match.

Eyes closed and basketball at his feet, Bernard Jones stood stoically on the grass in his backyard. In his mind he heard the public address announcer elatedly shout, "And now . . . introducing one of the greatest and fastest point guards ever to grace an NBA basketball court . . . the newest member of the Dream Team . . . the MIGHTY Bernard Jones!" Bernard's eyes flipped open. He picked up the basketball and ran onto his basketball court while imagining slapping high-fives and leaping into the air to chest-bump teammates amid the flashing camera lights and the roar of the crowd.

An ESPN reporter dashed up to him. "Bernard, how do you feel about playing in the World Championship game?"

"Excited! This will be one of the toughest games I have ever played, but I've trained for this moment my entire life. Bring it on!"

The referee immediately tossed the ball high in the air for the tip off between the centers. The ball was tipped to Bernard. He grabbed it and quickly dribbled the ball, whipping it around his back and between his legs as he sped down his driveway toward the hoop. He spotted Stephen Curry on one wing and LeBron James on the other. He faked a pass left and then right and abruptly stopped at the free-throw line, causing the invisible defender to stumble past him. He shot a jumper over the telephone wire, and . . . "The basket is good!"

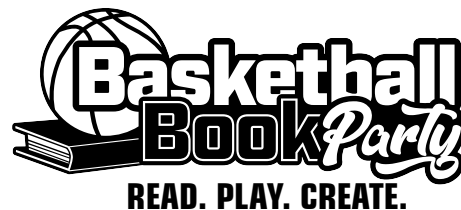
The opposing team promptly took the ball out, but was met by a stifling defense. The ball handler panicked and struggled to throw a pass, but Bernard intercepted it and raced back for an easy layup. Except, in the middle of the shot, the ball was blocked from behind. What? This was not part of his fantasy . . .

He spun around and discovered his mother shaking her head, with one hand on her hip and the other holding the ball.

"You need to be quicker than that," she said matter-of-factly.



Name _____



Questions

1. What TV station was interviewing Bernard?
ESPN NBA NBC CBS
2. What basketball position does Bernard Jones play?_____
3. What did Bernard have to shoot the ball over to make a basket?
a bird flying by a telephone wire the garage a car
4. Name one of Bernard's imaginary teammates?_____
5. Who blocked Bernard's shot?
A. his mom B. his dad C. LeBron James D. a grizzly bear

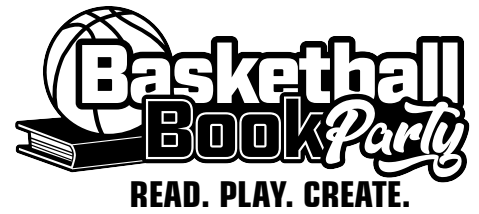
Word Match

Match each word on the left with the group of words that tells what it means.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. Stoically | forming a mental picture in the mind |
| 2. Imagining | cool and calmly |
| 3. Spotted | caught sight of |
| 4. Layup | a fantastic imaginary situation |
| 5. Fantasy | a one-handed basketball shot made from a position close to the basket |



Name _____



Chapter 2 - Reading Activity

Read the story and complete the questions and word match.

The cleanup work was finished and the fellas hung out in Grandpa Jones's study. Alex lay on the floor using his skateboard as a pillow while intently reading an Avengers comic book. Maurice sat cross-legged on the floor while paging through an auto magazine and doing bicep curls with a small hand weight. Meanwhile, Bernard was completely overwhelmed by the incredible library of books, the artwork and photographs on the walls, the antique furniture, exotic musical instruments, sports jerseys, and artifacts from around the world his grandfather showed him. Bernard didn't remember seeing any of this the last time he visited.

"Grandpa, this is all your stuff? It's like a museum in here!"

"That was the idea." Grandpa beamed. "I've been fortunate to be able to travel around the world photographing people, events, and cultural rituals from Nepal to New Orleans. I naturally started collecting things and bringing a little of the world back home with me.

"This is unbelievable!"

"That's what your grandmother screamed after the house filled up with so much stuff you needed a map to find your way to each room. So I decided to convert our garage into my little museum. And if I say so myself, it worked out pretty nice."

"I wish I could travel around the world." Bernard sighed wistfully.

"You're a smart kid; your time will come."

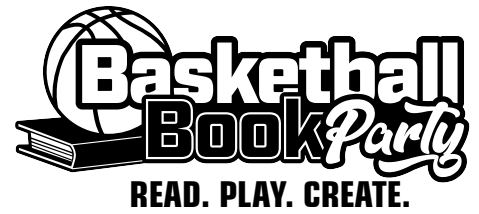
Bernard reached for a long, wooden instrument on one of the bookshelves.

"Grandpa, is this a flute?"

"That's a Choctaw river cane flute that a Native American friend of mine gave me after I photographed a Choctaw ceremony in Oklahoma. In Choctaw society the medicine men used it for many purposes, but sometimes played it before and during important stickball games to inspire a team to win.



Name _____



Questions

1. What kind of magazine did Maurice have?
A. auto B. music C. skater D. basketball
2. What did Alex use for a pillow? _____
3. Name one of the places Grandpa Jones has visited? _____
4. What part of the house did Grandpa Jones convert into a museum?
A. kitchen B. bedroom C. bathroom D. garage
5. From what tribe was Grandpa Jones's Native American friend?
A. Cherokee B. Apache C. Choctaw D. Blackfoot

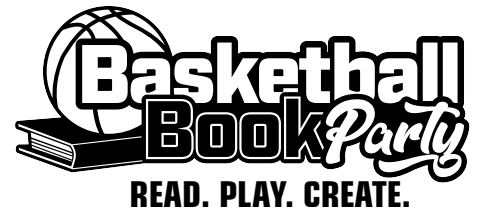
Word Match

Match each word on the left with the group of words that tells what it means.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Museum | the large muscle in the upper arm. |
| 2. Paging | a place where art, history, science and cultural objects are exhibited. |
| 3. Bicep | To flip through the pages |
| 4. Overwhelmed | To change something |
| 5. Convert | To be surprised by a large amount |



Name _____



Chapter 3 - Reading Activity

Read the story and complete the questions and word match.

The next morning Bernard worked up a sweat on the Elmdale Park outdoor basketball court. His G5000 basketball sat on the bench, volume turned up high. As Bernard skillfully dribbled up and down the length of the court, it critiqued him. "Keep your head up, Bernard Jones. You are too focused on the ball!"

After the ball-handling drills, Bernard proceeded to shoot an array of layups, mid-range jumpers, and three-pointers at each basket.

"Bernard Jones, you will achieve a higher shooting percentage if you keep your elbows in, body straight, and squeeze your thumb against your index finger on your guide hand. Do not fade away on jump shots!"

"But I make a lot of them!" Bernard hollered back at the ball.

"G5000 assesses you will increase your shooting percentage if you follow instructions, Bernard Jones."

Bernard was so focused that he didn't notice his grandfather standing near a tree and observing him.

"You really can play, son, no matter what that ball says!"

"Thanks, Grandpa!" Bernard grabbed a towel from his backpack and wiped the sweat from his brow. "G5000 must remind you, Bernard Jones, to shoot fifty-five more jump shots before ending practice."

"Hold on, Grandpa." Bernard turned off the ball.

"Good-bye."

"How long have you been standing there?" Bernard asked his grandfather.

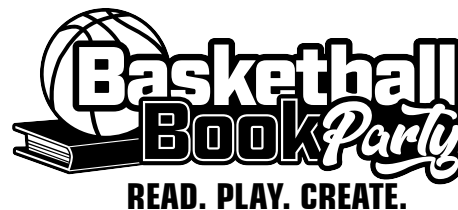
Grandpa Jones glanced at his watch. "Oh, I'd say about half an hour . . . I was taking my morning walk. It's been a long time since I've heard the sound of a basketball bouncing around here. I thought I'd investigate. You know . . . you may be about as big as a minute, but you're faster than a second! I like the way you get down that court!"

"Grandpa, you've got to be quicker than everybody else when you're my size."

"True. The best part is, you're smart too!" His grandfather replied.



Name _____



Questions

1. True or false: Bernard worked up a sweat on Elmdale's *Indoor Court*?
True False
2. Who was setting on the bench during Bernard's practice?_____
3. About how long had Grandpa Jones been observing Bernard practicing?
A. half an hour B. one hour C. five minutes D. twenty four hours
4. How many more jump-shots did G5000 tell Bernard to shoot?_____
5. What sound had Grandpa Jones NOT heard from the park in a long time?
A. basketball bouncing B. birds singing C. dogs barking D. kids laughing

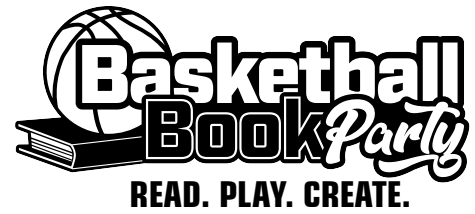
Word Match

Match each word on the left with the group of words that tells what it means.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Critiqued | explore to discover the facts |
| 2. Array | watching something carefully |
| 3. Observing | basketball shots made while jumping |
| 4. Jump shots | a serious examination and judgement |
| 5. Investigate | a variety of something |



Name _____



History of Basketball - Reading Activity

Read the story and highlight the answers with a marker or crayon.

In early December 1891, James Naismith, a Canadian physical education teacher at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts invented an indoor game called basketball. He invented the sport to keep his students from becoming bored during the winter months. Naismith wrote 13 basic rules and then nailed a peach basket onto a 10-foot tall pole. Unlike modern basketball hoops, the bottom of the peach-basket was still there, so after a point was scored, somebody had to get the ball out of the basket with a long stick. Over time, people made a hole at the bottom of the basket so the ball could go through more easily.

The first game of basketball ever played was in January 1892. The score of that first game of was 1 - 0. The only point scored came from a shot taken 25 feet away from the basket. By 1895, rules allowed only five players from each team could be on the court at a time. By 1906 the game had become so popular that rims with nets were invented and look much like the ones we use today.

There is a sculpture in Springfield, outside where the first game was held. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is also in Springfield.

Questions

1. Highlight with RED the name of the person who invented basketball.
2. Highlight with BLUE the city and state where basketball was invented.
3. Highlight with ORANGE the number of rules first written for the game.
4. Highlight with RED what was used as the first basketball hoop.
5. Highlight with BLUE the final score of the first basketball game ever.
6. Highlight with ORANGE how many players each team can have on the court.

Bonus Question

7. What else would you like to learn about the history of the game of basketball?

