



Activity One

Who Are the Harlem Globetrotters?

There are many professional basketball teams in the world. In the world of basketball, the Harlem Globetrotters are unique. Begin your research on the Internet, and learn about their history to answer the questions below.

History of the Harlem Globetrotters

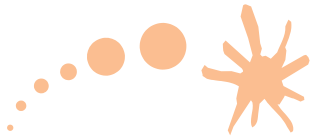
1. What year was the team first formed?
2. What were the first two names of the team, before it was named the Harlem Globetrotters?
3. Who created the team?
4. When did the name finally change to the Harlem Globetrotters?
5. In 1939, they added something to their game that made it very unique. What was it?
6. Who are some of the outstanding players? What are their names? Choose one of them to learn more about.

Present Day: the Harlem Globetrotters

Visit the Harlem Globetrotters website to learn about their world tour schedule for this next part of the bonus activity.

- Create a plan for your family to watch the Harlem Globetrotters live.
- Where would you watch them?
- How much would the tickets cost for your family?
- If you need to raise money to watch them, what would you do?
- Do you think this an activity your family would enjoy?

NAME: _____



Activity Two

Unusual Individual Sport or Team Sport



Some sports are team sports, while other sports are just for one person. Below are some examples of unfamiliar or unknown team and individual sports. Choose one to learn about. Record your research, then present it to your class. Use Google Slides to help in your presentation. This activity can be done individually or in pairs.

Or with your teacher's permission, research unusual or unknown sports to discover more choices.

Individual	Team
Poohsticks	Underwater Hockey
Zorbing	Cycleball
Ostrich Racing	Sepak Tacraw
Sporthocking	Kabaddi
Cheese Rolling	Car Curling
Extreme Ironing	Yukigassen
Dog Surfing	Cornish Hurling

What is the name of your unusual or unknown sport?

Is it an individual sport or a team sport?

What is the history of the sport you have chosen?

From what country does it originate?

What skills are needed to play this sport?

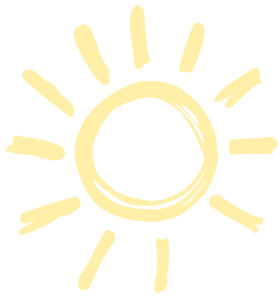
Is any equipment required?

What are the rules?

Is it still played today?

Do you think that you would like to try this sport? Why or why not?

NAME: _____



Activity Three

Five Words



Choose five words that describe you and write them down. For example, you might write the words: **talkative**, **happy**, **positive**, **loud**, and **friendly**.

Watch a video about Kwame Alexander. Or, read an interview with the author. We suggest a video where Kwame Alexander reads an excerpt from *The Crossover* for *AdLit*. Learn how he searches for interesting words in the thesaurus or dictionary.

Look up your five words in a dictionary or thesaurus. Then, write down a few synonyms for each word.

Talkative: loquacious, communicative, effusive

Happy: jovial, joyous, cheerful

Positive: optimistic, pragmatic, efficacious

Loud: clamorous, cacophonous, sonorous,

Friendly: convivial, amiable, gregarious

Write a poem about yourself and include these new five words in your poem. You can choose to rhyme your words or to simply write a free verse poem.

Example Poem:

Words About Me

Some say I am talkative, but I say I am loquacious.

Some say I am happy, but I say I am joyous.

Some say I am positive, but I say I am efficacious.

Some say I am loud, but I say I am cacophonous.

Some say I am friendly, but I say I am gregarious.

NAME: _____



Activity Four

Visual Poetry



Look at and record the visual aspects of the poem *Filthy McNasty*. Then, fill in the chart below with specific words from the poem that show each example. Next, read *The Show*, or *The Game is Tied*, or *Suspension*. Are similar visual aspects used? Discuss this with a partner.

Visual Aspects	Filthy McNasty
Use of all capitals.	ELEVATING,
Placement of words on the page.	
Use of invented words.	
Vertical words.	
Font size.	
Use of bold words.	
Words with both capitals and small letters.	
Left/Centre/Right	

NAME: _____



Activity Five



A Visual Poem About Your Favorite Pastime

Write a visual poem about your favorite pastime. It can be six to eight lines in length, or longer. Have fun playing with the space on the page, the font size, capital letters, vertical words, or words written in a diagonal, etc.

Below are some verbs ending in "ing", which may be helpful in showing the action of your favorite pastime. In addition, some adverbs—"ly" words—are included that may aid in describing the action of the "ing" verbs.

running, playing, dribbling, kicking, tossing, catching, shooting, dancing, swerving, diving, swimming, splashing, skating, gliding, sliding, slipping, winning, cycling, speeding, spinning,etc.

quickly, slowly, speedily, carefully, quietly, loudly, softly, gently, smoothly, hurriedly, expertly, happily, swiftly, ...etc.

The title of your poem can be the name of the favorite pastime that you have decided to write about. The first line can begin with: I love.....or, I enjoy....., or My favorite.....

Example:

Hiking and Photos

I love to go hiking.

Quietly walking

Silently **S T A N D I N G**

Near a tree

To **SNAP**

A photo of a bird,

Bug, or leaf

The photo is perfect

I sigh with relief.

NAME: _____



Activity Six

Interview Two Classmates About *The Crossover*



Now that you have finished reading *The Crossover*, it will be interesting to talk to your peers about how they felt about the book and if their feelings changed from the beginning of the book to the end. Kwame Alexander wrote a unique story by using poetry to write about his main character—Josh Bell—and his love of basketball and love for his family.

Use the sample questions below for your interview, but also feel free to create questions of your own.

1. When you first learned that *The Crossover* was a story written as poems, what did you think about the book?
2. Do you think that it was a good idea for Kwame Alexander to write the book this way? Why or why not?
3. Which poem or poems did you like the best and why?
4. Is there a poem or two that you did not like? Which one(s) are they and why?
5. Do you think that you could write a short story as a poem? Explain.
6. If you could change the ending to *The Crossover*, what would you change about it?
7. If you had an opportunity to ask Kwame Alexander a question about *The Crossover*, what would it be?
8. Do you have anything else that you would like to share?