

Hardcourt Comeback by Fred Bowen

Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions

Aligned with the Common Core Reading Standards

Directions: Use details from the text to support ALL of your answers.

Chapter 1

How would you describe the Wildcats basketball practice? What does it tell you about the players and the relationship between Brett and Will?

Chapter 2

How does the author use the History Bee to show the relationship between Brett and Brooke? Describe that relationship.

Chapter 3

What is a layup in basketball? Brett scores a key basket with a layup to make the score 43-38. Why all the emphasis on layups?

Chapter 4

You have read about Brett for 4 chapters. How would you describe him in 3 or 4 adjectives? Why did you choose those adjectives?

Chapter 5

How is the setting in Chapter 5 important to the action? How does the author show that Brett is getting more and more nervous? How is the word “beaten” used at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 6

The author uses 2 chapters to describe the game with the Huskies. Why does he do this? How does it create more tension in the story?

Chapter 7

This chapter describes only 45 seconds of the game. What does the author do to “slow down” the action?

Chapter 8

How has Brett changed since the beginning of the story? How is he different? Why is he different?

Chapter 9

How has Brett’s relationship with Will changed? How has it changed with Brooke?

Chapter 10

Compare and contrast how Brett acts and plays during the game in this chapter and how he acts and plays during the game in Chapter 3. What are some of the specific differences?

Chapter 11

After the Wildcats practice, Brett sits on the gym floor to watch the start of his sister's practice, but he barely notices what her team is doing. Why is that?

Chapter 12

Coach Giminski tells the Wildcats two stories. Why is it important that these stories are about real games and real players?

Chapter 13

What does Mike at Earth Treks do to help Brett overcome his fears?
Compare Brett's feeling at the end of this chapter with his feeling at the end of Chapter 5.

Chapter 14

What does Coach Giminski mean when he says to Brett, "Take it to the hoop?" Brett seems to be gaining confidence and playing better. How did Brett's experience at Earth Treks help him as a basketball player?

Chapter 15

Describe the rules for the game 21. What are the two shots in the game? Why is that important to the story?

Chapter 16

What does the game tell you about Brett? How has he changed?

Chapter 17

Think about the whole story. Why is it called "Hardcourt Comeback?"

Overall Question:

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

The Real Story (Bonus history chapter at the back.)

How does the information in The Real Story relate to the theme or the plot of the whole story?