

# Real Hoops by Fred Bowen

## 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 and 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 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 Mr. George’s Team Rules. After Mr. George 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 in Chapter 7 tell us about the relationship between Mr. George and Hud? What does Coach George mean when he yells out to Hud, “Simple pass. No French Pastry.”

### Chapter 8

Looking back to Chapter 6, what does Mr. 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 break Mr. 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 Mr. 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 (The nonfiction section at the end)

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