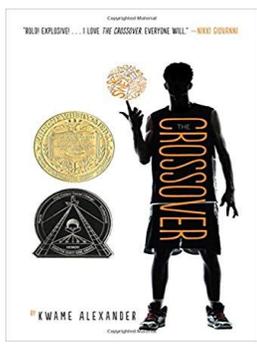


## Proposed Core Literature Titles

The following summary is provided by the California Department of Education's "Recommended Literature List", and the top three Google searches of the book title and author name (e.g. Refugee by Alan Gratz) that produced a description of the title.

### Crossover

Proposed Grade Level: 6



Title: **Crossover**  
Author: **Kwame Alexander**  
First Published: **2014**

Proposed Grade Level: 6

#### California Department of Education, Recommended Literature List:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/rl/>

Twelve-year-old twins Josh and Jordan (JB) are a well-oiled machine on the basketball court. But then JB gets a girlfriend, and before Josh knows it, things start to change. This verse novel has massive appeal for reluctant readers.

#### Descriptions From Top 3 Google Searches:

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18263725-the-crossover>

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.

Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Crossover](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Crossover)

The lives of twin brothers and Josh (Filthy McNasty) and Jordan (J.B.) Bell are followed as they learn to accept change, responsibility, and loss in their middle school years. They both love basketball considerably and it serves as a backdrop for the events of the story.

The Bell family consist of the mother, Crystal, who is caring and frequently worries about her husband's, Chuck "Da Man" Bell, health. Chuck used to play professional basketball in a European league when he was younger. Throughout the story, Chuck is seen coughing, breathing heavily, and even passing out due to health complications. Josh views basketball differently than his brother Jordan. To Josh, basketball is a way of life that can bring ultimate rewards. Josh aspires to play professional ball, unlike Jordan, who has dreams outside the sport.

As the school years progress, the relationship between Josh and Jordan deteriorates. The first damaging event happens when Jordan gets a girlfriend. He spends more time with her than with Josh and basketball. To connect with Jordan and release his anger, Josh makes a bet about a ball game they play. In the end Josh loses and Jordan gets to cut a piece of his hair. Josh stumbles and takes more than was bargained for. When Crystal sees her son's hair, she makes him shave it completely off; symbolizing the growing rift and independence between the twins.

The chasm between the twins grows and during a game Josh purposefully passes the ball to Jordan too hard. The pass breaks Jordan's nose and Josh is suspended from basketball. As time continues, Josh notices his father's health is declining. Eventually, Chuck has a heart attack and is hospitalized. As Josh discovers more about his father's professional life and attitude, he sees how fame brought about a sense of invincibility to Chuck which affected his decisions that ultimately landed him in the hospital suffering from heart attack at the age of 39. Chuck has two more heart attacks and passes away.

After Chuck's death, Josh feels that a part of him died with his father and he begins to feel isolated and directionless. Josh breaks down and confesses to Jordan, who he hasn't had a serious conversation with in a while, that he feels no joy. To his surprise, Jordan feels the same way. As the story concludes, the boy's relationship is shown to be repairable as they start to connect and rekindle their relationship.

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/books/crossover-the-by-kwame-alexander/>

Josh and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood. He's got mad beats too, beats that tell his family's story in verse. But both brothers must come to grips with growing up, on and off the court, as they realize breaking the rules can come at a terrible price, resulting in a game-changer for their entire family.