

# Community Middle School's One School, One Book Summer Reading Experience


## ***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander**

This summer, every student at Community Middle School will read *The Crossover*, a novel in verse that blends basketball, brotherhood, and bold emotion. When you return to school in September, choose **ONE activity** from the board below to show your understanding.


 **Your project will count as one quiz grade.**


## **CHOICE BOARD – Pick ONE Activity**

Choose an option that fits your strengths and interests. Be creative, thoughtful, and show what you learned from *The Crossover*.

 <b>Literary Lens Choices</b>	
<b>Project Option</b>	<b>Elements for Success</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Character Analysis Poster</b> Design a poster that maps Josh Bell's traits, relationships, key quotes, and growth over the novel.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 3 character traits with 1 quote or example each</li><li>● 1 example of how Josh shows growth throughout the novel with 1 quote</li><li>● 2 relationships with 1 sentence each</li><li>● Some color or decoration</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Chapter Rewrite</b> Rewrite a scene from JB's (Jordan's) point of view, keeping the style and tone true to the original.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● One scene retold from Jordan's point of view</li><li>● At least <b>2 full paragraphs (8–10 sentences total)</b></li><li>● Includes <b>1 line of dialogue</b> and <b>1 inner thought</b></li><li>● Tone and style match the novel</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Poetry Flipbook</b> Choose 5 poems from the novel and</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 5 poems from the book</li><li>● 3-sentence reflection for each poem</li><li>● A simple cover page</li></ul>

turn them into a flipbook. Add short reflections for each one.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each poem has its own page with decoration</li> </ul>
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 <b>Creative Expression Choices</b>	
<b>Project Option</b>	<b>Elements for Success</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Found Poem Collage</b> Use lines from the book to create a new poem that captures a theme. Add images or illustrations to enhance your message.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least <b>7 lines from the book</b> used in a new poem</li> <li>Includes a clear theme</li> <li>2–3 related images or drawings</li> <li>Neat and visually appealing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball Life Timeline</b> Create a timeline that shows how basketball shapes Josh’s life. Include key events, moments, and quotes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 key basketball events in Josh’s life</li> <li>1 quote and 1-sentence explanation per event</li> <li>Organized as a timeline (boxes, arrows, or dates)</li> <li>Color or icons included</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Visual Metaphor Poster</b> Choose a major symbol or metaphor (like “the crossover” or “rules”) and create an artistic poster to represent it. Include a short written explanation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear metaphor or symbol (e.g., “rules,” “the crossover”)</li> <li>1 creative image or visual to show meaning</li> <li>3–4 sentence explanation of your metaphor</li> <li>1 supporting quote from the book</li> </ul>

 <b>Critical Thinking Choices</b>	
<b>Project Option</b>	<b>Elements for Success</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Themes One-Pager</b> Create a one-page visual response showing how a theme like family, identity, or loss is developed. Include evidence, images, and reflections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on <b>1 theme</b> (e.g., family, loss, identity)</li> <li>• 2 quotes from the book</li> <li>• 1 image (drawing or clipart)</li> <li>• 5–6 sentence explanation</li> <li>• Everything fits on <b>one page</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Real Talk Reflection Letter</b> Write a heartfelt letter to Josh or his father reacting to a major moment. Share your thoughts and ask two thoughtful questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Josh or his dad</li> <li>• At least <b>2 full paragraphs (6–8 sentences total)</b></li> <li>• Includes 1 quote from the book</li> <li>• Asks 2 thoughtful questions</li> <li>• Expresses emotion or personal opinion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Debate Response: Sports vs. School</b> Write an argument (or slideshow) about whether Josh should focus more on basketball or school. Use evidence from the book to support your claim.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 2 full paragraphs (6–8 sentences total)</li> <li>• Clear claim (your opinion) should be written at the end of your first paragraph</li> <li>• Include at least 2 pieces of text evidence to support your claim             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Explain how the evidence supports your claim</li> </ul> </li> <li>• End with a strong closing sentence.</li> </ul>



**DUE DATE: First Friday After We Return in September**



**GRADE: This assignment will count as one quiz grade.**

Use the rubric below to guide your work!



## Universal Rubric - 20 Point Quiz Grade

Category	Excellent (4 pts)	Proficient (3 pts)	Developing (2 pts)	Needs Improvement (0-1 pts)
<b>Understanding of Text</b>	Shows deep understanding; all required elements included	Mostly accurate understanding; 1 element may be weak or missing	Shows basic understanding; 2–3 elements missing or incomplete	Little understanding or most elements not met
<b>Creativity &amp; Effort</b>	Very original, detailed, and thoughtful; effort is clear	Good effort; mostly complete and neat	Some creativity; looks rushed or missing details	Minimal effort or sloppy/incomplete work
<b>Textual Evidence</b>	Strong, well-chosen quotes or lines; all required evidence included	Includes most quotes/lines needed; some connection to meaning	Few or weak pieces of evidence; unclear connections	Little or no evidence used from the text
<b>Clarity &amp; Organization</b>	Project is clear, neat, easy to follow, and visually appealing	Mostly neat and easy to follow; minor formatting issues	Hard to follow in parts; formatting or structure may be unclear	Disorganized, messy, or confusing to the reader
<b>Requirements</b>	All elements listed above are fully met or exceeded	Most elements met (missing 1 small part)	Missing 2–3 major elements	Did not meet most or all parts of the assignment

Total: \_\_ / 20 Quiz Grade

- 18–20 = A
- 15–17 = B
- 12–14 = C
- 9–11 = D
- 8 or below = F



# CMS Summer Reading

## *The Crossover*

**Directions: Choose any ONE activity from below. Refer to the detailed assignment for activity expectations.**

### **“LITERARY LENS” CHOICES**

#### **Character Analysis Poster**

Design a poster that maps Josh Bell’s traits, relationships, key quotes, and growth over the novel.

### **“CREATIVE EXPRESSION” CHOICES**

#### **Found Poem Collage**

Use lines from the book to create a new poem that captures a theme. Add images or illustrations to enhance your message.

### **“CRITICAL THINKING” CHOICES**

#### **Themes One-Pager**

Create a one-page visual response showing how a theme like family, identity, or loss is developed. Include evidence, images, and reflections.

#### **Chapter Rewrite**

Rewrite a scene from JB’s (Jordan’s) point of view, keeping the style and tone true to the original.

#### **Basketball Life Timeline**

Create a timeline that shows how basketball shapes Josh’s life. Include key events, moments, and quotes.

#### **Real Talk Reflection Letter**

Write a heartfelt letter to Josh or his father reacting to a major moment. Share your thoughts and ask two thoughtful questions.

#### **Poetry Flipbook**

Choose 5 poems from the novel and turn them into a flipbook. Add short reflections for each one.

#### **Visual Metaphor Poster**

Choose a major symbol or metaphor (like “the crossover” or “rules”) and create an artistic poster to represent it. Include a short written explanation.

#### **Debate Response: Sports vs. School**

Write an argument (or slideshow) about whether Josh should focus more on basketball or school. Use evidence from the book to support your claim.

