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*.

Literary Lens Choices					
Project Option	Elements for Success				
Character Analysis Poster Design a poster that maps Josh Bell's traits, relationships, key quotes, and growth over the novel.	 3 character traits with 1 quote or example each 1 example of how Josh shows growth throughout the novel with 1 quote 2 relationships with 1 sentence each Some color or decoration 				
Chapter Rewrite Rewrite a scene from JB's (Jordan's) point of view, keeping the style and tone true to the original.	 One scene retold from Jordan's point of view At least 2 full paragraphs (8–10 sentences total) Includes 1 line of dialogue and 1 inner thought Tone and style match the novel 				
Poetry Flipbook Choose 5 poems from the novel and	 5 poems from the book 3-sentence reflection for each poem A simple cover page 				

turn them into a flipbook. Add short
reflections for each one.

Each poem has its own page with decoration

Creative Expression Choices						
Project Option	Elements for Success					
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.	 At least 7 lines from the book used in a new poem Includes a clear theme 2–3 related images or drawings Neat and visually appealing 					
Basketball Life Timeline Create a timeline that shows how basketball shapes Josh's life. Include key events, moments, and quotes.	 5 key basketball events in Josh's life 1 quote and 1-sentence explanation per event Organized as a timeline (boxes, arrows, or dates) Color or icons included 					
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.	 A clear metaphor or symbol (e.g., "rules," "the crossover") 1 creative image or visual to show meaning 3–4 sentence explanation of your metaphor 1 supporting quote from the book 					

Critical Thinking Choices					
Project Option	Elements for Success				
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.	 Focus on 1 theme (e.g., family, loss, identity) 2 quotes from the book 1 image (drawing or clipart) 5–6 sentence explanation Everything fits on one page 				
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.	 Letter to Josh or his dad At least 2 full paragraphs (6–8 sentences total) Includes 1 quote from the book Asks 2 thoughtful questions Expresses emotion or personal opinion 				
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.	 At least 2 full paragraphs (6-8 sentences total) Clear claim (your opinion) should be written at the end of your first paragraph Include at least 2 pieces of text evidence to support your claim Explain how the evidence supports your claim End with a strong closing sentence. 				

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)
Understanding of Text	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
Creativity & Effort	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/incompl ete work
Textual Evidence	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
Clarity & Organization	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
Requirements	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

"CREATIVE EXPRESSION" CHOICES

"CRITICAL THINKING" CHOICES

Character Analysis Poster

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

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.

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.