



## The Two Wes Moores

<u>Wes Moore: The Author (Moore)</u>	<u>The Other Wes Moore (Wes)</u>
	
<u>Characteristics and Basic Info:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wes was born in Maryland</li> <li>• Wes grew up in New York</li> <li>• His father died when he was 3 years old.</li> <li>• He got in trouble in school.</li> <li>• He went to military school and then Johns Hopkins University.</li> <li>• He graduated, got good jobs, and made a lot of money.</li> <li>• He is a black man</li> <li>• He is now the governor of Maryland.</li> </ul>	<u>Characteristics and Basic Info:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wes was born and grew up in Baltimore.</li> <li>• His father is not part of his life.</li> <li>• He got in trouble in school and sold drugs on the street.</li> <li>• He robbed a jewelry store and killed a man.</li> <li>• He is a black man</li> <li>• He is now in prison for murder.</li> </ul>
<u>Which Wes Moore is the reading about?</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is writing the book</li> <li>• When it is in <b>first person</b>, the book is about this Wes Moore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ex: I, we, us, me</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is NOT writing the book</li> <li>• When it is in <b>third person</b>, the book is about this Wes Moore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ex: he, him, them</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## **Chapter 1: Is Daddy Coming With Us? 1982**

### **Section 1: (Moore)**

Moore was living in Takoma Park, Maryland. It is a town near Washington, DC. Moore was three years old and hit his sister Nikki while they were playing. He ran to his room, scared of his mom. Moore's mom Joy immigrated to America from Jamaica when she was three and worked hard to make a better life. After Moore hit his sister, his dad came to his room and gave him advice that he never forgot. His dad told Moore that you can't hit people, you have to defend them. Moore says he has only two memories of his dad: one is this moment, and the other is when his dad died.

Moore's dad, Westley, worked very hard and became a successful reporter. He later worked at a local radio station, where he met Moore's mom, Joy. Westley got very sick, but the doctors didn't diagnose it correctly. After going to the hospital and being sent home, Westley came down the stairs, struggling to breathe, and fell. He died right in front of young Moore.

#### **Key Quotes:**

**"He began to explain what I did wrong and why my mother was so angry. 'Main Man, you just can't hit people and particularly women. You must defend them, not fight them. Do you understand?'"(Pg 11)**

**"My father had entered the hospital seeking help. But his face was unshaven, his clothes disheveled, his name unfamiliar, his address not in an affluent area. The hospital looked at him askance, insulted him with ridiculous questions, and basically told him to fend for himself. Now, my mother had to plan his funeral." (Pg. 14-15)**

### **Section 2: (Wes)**

Wes is getting ready to sleep at his Grandma Mamie's house. His mom, Mary, is getting ready to go to the nightclub. Mary just found out that the money helping her go to Johns Hopkins University won't be given to her anymore. Without it, she can't go to school. Wes's dad, Bernard, is never around, and his big brother, Tony, spends a lot of time at his dad's house, so Wes thinks he's the man of the house.

Mary had Tony when she was 16. Then, her mom died, and her dad started drinking more. Later, Mary met Bernard, who also had a drinking problem, and she had Wes. Bernard only tried to see Wes once when Wes was a baby. Now, Wes is six years old, and it's the first time he sees Bernard. When Mary drops Wes off at Grandma Mamie's

house, Bernard is drunk on the couch. He asks who Wes is, and Mary tells Bernard that this is his son.

**Key Quotes:**

**“Johns Hopkins University was only five miles from where Mary grew up, but it might as well have been a world away.” (Page 17)**

**“Her (Mary’s) heart jumped when she received her acceptance letter. It was a golden ticket to another world – but also to the dizzying idea that the life she wanted, that she dreamed about, might actually happen for her.’ (Pg 17)**

