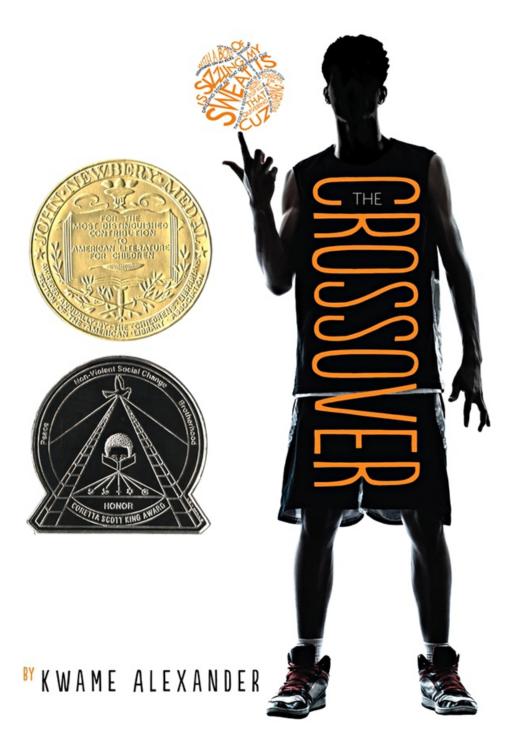


- 0. What is a crossover? Story Preface
- 1. What is a crossover?
- 2. Basketball is a powerful sport
- 3. Basketball and rules
- 4. The Crossover -- Yes!

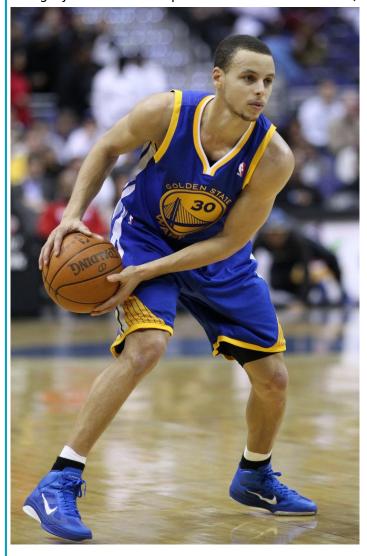
"BOLD! EXPLOSIVE! . . . I LOVE THE CROSSOVER. EVERYONE WILL." — NIKKI GIOVANNI



What is a crossover?

It is a compound word used as a noun or an adjective. If it is separated into two words, it becomes a verb. When it is a noun it can be used as a basketball term. For example: Stephan Curry dribbled the ball in his left hand and then his right hand before he made a basket, doing a nice crossover.

Crossover can also be used as an adjective. It is often used in the arts when a musician breaks into another category. Another example: Selena was called the Queen of Tejano music and became a crossover star.



If the word is separated into two words, it becomes a verb which means to reach a broader audience. Kwame Alexander is a poet, and after writing more than 20 successful books, he crossed over to being a recognized author. He is also an award winning author and inspiration. His John Newbery award-winning book, *The Crossover*, is a book about basketball, family relationships and crossing over in life. *The Crossover* was selected for a Newbery Medal, one of the highest book awards, because Kwame Alexander is a "most distinguished author of children's literature" which means he rules when it comes to writing.

Even though *The Crossover* is a book written for kids, Kwame Alexander hoped it would cross over to interest adult readers.

It did! Brian Ripley Crandell, an adult and director of the Connecticut writing project at Fairfield University predicted that *The Crossover* would "go all the way" and commented about the "power" in its text.

TRY THIS: 1) Think of three moves in dance or sports that look like a crossover. 2) Think of three crossover examples in language, food, or music. 3) Think of three ways to cross over in everyday activities, ways of thinking, or the arts.

Footnotes:

- 1) Merriam Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary, www.merriam-webster.com, Dec/18/2015, Dec/18/2015, http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/crossover
- 2) Wikipedia, Selena, Wikipedia.com, Dec/18/2015, Dec/18/2015, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selena
- 3) Merriam Webster, Merriam Webster Dictionary, Merriam Webster.com, Dec/18/2015, Dec/18/2015, http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cross%20over
- 4) American Library Association, Welcome to the Newbery Medal Home Page!, American Library Association .com, Dec/18/2015, Dec/18/2015,
- http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal
- 5) Crandall, Bryan, Jazzing it up at Hill Central and checking literary wingspans, KREATIVITET: Creative Crandall

Blogspot, Apr/07/2014, Dec/18/2015,

http://creativecrandall.blogspot.com/2014/04/jazzing-it-up-at-hill-central-and.html

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/What-is-a-crossover-Crossover-Poet-and-Inspiration-Kwame-Alexander

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/What-is-a-crossover-Crossover-Poet-and-Inspiration-Kwame-Alexander