

# 6th Grade Summer Project: Finding Your Voice Through *The Crossover*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Due: First week of school

## Guidelines:

- ✓ Read the entire novel *The Crossover*
  - All answers must be written in **complete sentences**
  - Be thoughtful, creative, and show your best effort
  - You may type or handwrite your project
  - This novel should be new to you (no rereads!)
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## Part 1: Slam! Poetry Response

Kwame Alexander tells the story through powerful **free verse poems**.

**Directions:** Choose your **favorite poem** from the novel and respond:

- What's the title of the poem?
- What happens in this poem?
- What emotions do you think Josh is feeling here?
- Why did you choose this poem as your favorite?

Write a full paragraph (5–7 sentences) in response.

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## Part 2: Write Like Josh – Your Own Slam Poem

**Directions:** Write a free verse poem (10–20 lines) from **your own life** — it can be about:

- Your favorite sport or hobby
- A big emotion you've felt
- A moment when you changed or grew

Try using:

- Repetition

- Capital letters or bold emphasis
- Short lines and rhythm
- Strong feelings!

DO NOT USE AI. I just want you to try and do something new.

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### **Part 3: Character Connection**

**Directions:** Answer the following using complete sentences.

1. Describe **Josh Bell's personality**. What makes him unique?
2. What struggles does he face with his family or friends?
3. Which character (Josh, JB, Mom, Dad, or someone else) do you relate to most? Why?

### **Part 4: Theme Tracker**

**Directions:** Choose **one theme** below and explain how it shows up in the book. Write at least **5 complete sentences** with examples.

**Choose one:**

- Family
- Growing up
- Identity
- Responsibility
- Jealousy

**Explain:**

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## **Part 5: Design Josh's Basketball Shoes**

Imagine you are designing a custom pair of sneakers for Josh. The design should **represent who he is** — include colors, symbols, and words or quotes from the book.

**On the back of this page (or another sheet):**

- Draw or describe the shoe design
  - Label the symbols/colors
  - Write 3–4 sentences explaining how your design reflects Josh's journey
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### **Project Checklist**

- I finished reading *The Crossover*
- I wrote in complete sentences
- I completed every section
- I was creative and thoughtful
- I'm ready to share my work in class!