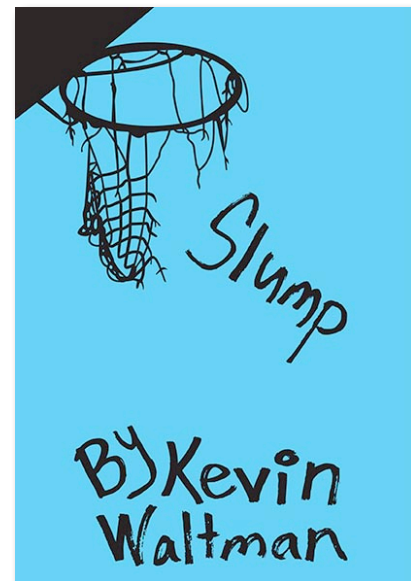


## TEACHER'S GUIDE

ALIGNED WITH COMMON CORE STANDARDS

### **Slump** by Kevin Waltman

In *Slump*, the second book in a series of four by Waltman, Derrick Bowman is struggling to succeed in his second year playing high school basketball. While his coach advises him not to use the word, Derrick knows that a number of events have created a sophomore slump. Not only does Derrick face challenging situations with his family, but he also faces difficulties in his friendships and romantic relationships. Throughout this book, basketball serves as a means for Derrick to cope with his problems, but also to learn from others about respect, hard work, patience, and dedication.



The following questions are aligned with CCSS standards for literature for grades 9-12. You will find the corresponding standard after each question.

### Whole Text Questions

1. Throughout this book, Derrick is both influenced by role models and serves as a role model for others. Cite examples of how Derrick is influenced by other male characters and how he translates the lessons he learns to help other male characters in the novel (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)
2. What is the most important theme in this book? Explain why you believe this theme is more important than the others in the book. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.2)
3. How would Derrick describe basketball? Use examples from the beginning, middle and end of the book to support your answer. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.4)
4. Compare and contrast the character traits of Jasmine and Daniella. How are they different and how are they the same? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)

### Part One

1. What adjectives describe Derrick during Part One? For each adjective you choose, support your response with evidence from the text. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1)
2. The narrator includes a number of basketball terms in the text such as “suicides”, “J”, “Bucket” or “fadeaways.” Choose two of these terms and define them, using the text to support your

## **Slump**, by Kevin Waltman

response. How does the use of basketball terminology affect the flow, tone, and meaning of Part One? Why might the author choose to include this terminology in the text? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.4)

3. How do Derrick's relationships change in Part I? What causes these changes? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)
4. Why does Coach Bolden dislike the word “slump”? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.4) Use evidence from the text to support your response.
5. After Jasmine tells Derrick to stop when they are kissing in the car, he says, “It's okay.” Yet he also notes that it sounds like an accusation. Describe the tone that Derrick uses with Jasmine. How is his point of view different from hers? How is each feeling? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.6)
6. At the end of Part I, Derrick is told that his father is in the hospital. Looking back through this section of the book, find specific evidence that both foreshadow the occurrence of a tragic event and create a sense of tension. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.5)
7. Explain how the theme of teamwork develops in Part I, making reference to specific scenes where teamwork presents itself as a problem or solution in the text. Choosing one scene from those you reference, explain how each character views and enacts teamwork. What does this reveal about the characters involved in the scene? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.2)

### **Part Two**

1. Instead of launching into a description of how Derrick's father looks, the author starts Part II by describing Uncle Kid. Why might the author choose to describe other members of Derrick's family before telling us how his father is doing? How does the structure of this chapter contribute to the anxiety of the events with Derrick's dad? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.5)
2. Derrick calls his mother “mama” while his father is in the hospital. What does this word choice reveal about what he is feeling? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.4)
3. How does Derrick want people to treat him while his father is in the hospital and recovering? How do you know? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1)
4. What are the differences between how Coach Bolden wants the team to play and how Derrick wants to play? Cite specific examples from the text to support your response. Who do you think will triumph in this conflict? Use specific examples from the text to support your response. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3)
5. What clues tell Wes and Derrick that Iesha is losing interest in being Wes' girlfriend? What do you think will happen in the future between the two? Do you think Wes will confront his

## **Slump**, by Kevin Waltman

- girlfriend or ignore her behavior? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1)
6. Temptation is a theme in the second section of this book. Cite specific examples of temptation that Derrick faces in his life. Do you predict he will succumb to his temptations or will he supersede them in order to become successful? Use specific evidence from the book to explain your response. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.2)
  7. In Chapter 18, we see Kid attempt to give Derrick's family some money. Based on what character traits and behaviors we have seen from Kid in the past, do you think that Derrick's mother should accept the money? Why? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)
  8. Do you think Derrick's decision not to date Daniella because of her reputation is fair? Do you think it would be possible for Derrick to move past his preconceptions of Daniella to form a meaningful relationship with her? Why? Use specific examples from the text to support your response. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.6)
  9. Why doesn't Derrick's mother admonish him concerning his behavior with Daniella, even though she knows what is happening? Explain how the unspoken communication between mother and son creates a sense of tension in the book? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.5)
  10. What effect does the crowd have on the basketball team while they are playing in a game? Give specific examples of how the crowd affects either individual players or the whole team? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1)
  11. Why does Derrick's father find it difficult to accept help or to talk about accepting help? Explain how you know it is difficult for him using examples of his thoughts, words and actions from the text. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)
  12. What does it mean when the players say that the Wisconsin team is “so white”? What is the coach's response to this thinking? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.4)
  13. Why are Derrick's parents so intent to question Kid about his job? Describe the mood of the kitchen when this discussion occurs and cite evidence from the text that supports your description. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)

### **Part Three**

1. Why does it bother Derrick that a police officer is following the car while he is with Kid? Why doesn't it bother Kid? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1)
2. How does Derrick know that Daniela is aware of his plan to end their relationship? Cite specific examples from the text that support your response. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)

**Slump**, by Kevin Waltman

3. Why is Daniella so offended when Derrick breaks up with her? How would you feel in her shoes? Who is to blame for the break up? What lesson does Derrick learn from the experience? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)
4. What effect do the team meetings at the donut shop have on the players? How do you know that this tradition helps the team? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1)
5. How does Uncle Kid convince Derrick's father to leave the house? Why do you think he was successful when no one else was? Why does Derrick's father wait until the end of the season to attend a game? How would the outcome of the (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.5)
6. How has the way that Derrick played at the beginning of the book different from how he plays in the final game? Why do you think he has changed his tactics? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3)