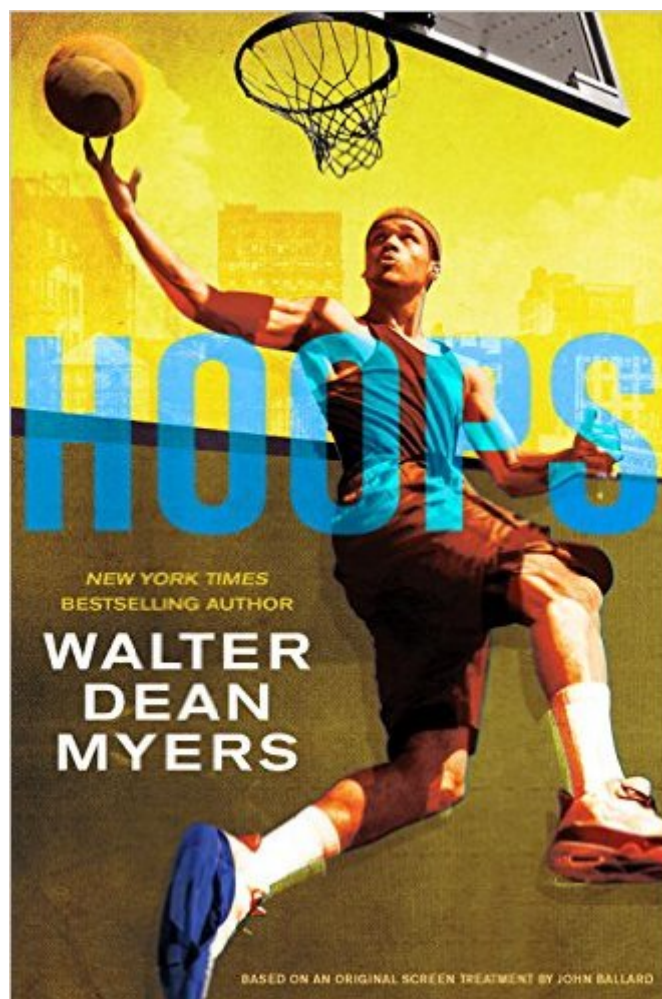


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# Hoops



## Synopsis

An ALA-YALSA Best Book for Young Adults  
New Bonus Content:-Q&A with Walter Dean Myers-Q&A with screenwriter John Ballard-Teaser chapter from *On a Clear Day*-Excerpt from *145th Street*  
All eyes are on seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson while he practices with his team for a city-wide basketball Tournament of Champions. His coach, Cal, knows Lonnie has what it takes to be a pro basketball player, but warns him about giving in to the pressure. Cal knows because he, too, once had the chance but sold out. As the tournament nears, Lonnie learns that some heavy bettors want Cal to keep him on the bench so that the team will lose the championship. As the last seconds of the game tick away, Lonnie and Cal must make a decision. Are they willing to blow the chance of a lifetime?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0740 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Ember; Reprint edition (February 14, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307976114

ISBN-13: 978-0307976116

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (106 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #52,133 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#10 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Basketball](#) [#34 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball](#) [#137 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Hopes, dreams, aspirations and life lessons. That's what HOOPS is about. We all have some sort of dream or game plan for our future, as well does 17 years old Lonnie, (the main character of this book). But do we all know what it's like to live in a less than ideal situation? To deal with the pressures of drugs, alcohol, and the threat of violence lurking in the air? These are all things Lonnie deals with in life, all the while just wanting to play his game. The game of basketball. He dreams of

one day making it out of the projects and playing pro ball, with his lady Mary Ann by his side. That is Lonnie's dream. He knows this won't be easy. He must face his many challenges with his team and his coach. The team knows it must win the Tournament of Champions, but none of them want it more than Lonnie. So he knows he needs to practise hard and give it his all. With Cal's help and persuasion Lonnie has a chance. Cal is the coach. The man that will help keep the team together, right? Well not exactly. Cal has many challenges of his own to face. He has a past that doesn't seem to stay away. Cal is a former pro-player. He has problems with gambling and alcohol that keep haunting him. He tries hard to keep himself together, to show the team the right way of doing things, especially Lonnie. He wants Lonnie to make it out. To live out the dream he lost to greed and temptation. There are a lot of lessons that can be learned from HOOPS. I enjoyed reading this book and found it to be an easy read. But most of all I learned to never give up on my dreams. No matter what gets in the way.

Hoops by Walter Dean Myers is a fantastic read. This is the first Myers book that I have read and it makes me want to read another. This is not just for people who enjoy basketball but for anyone who has ever had a difficult decision to make. Lonnie Jackson is a seventeen-year-old boy who lives in Harlem, New York. He is your typical teenager, his mom gets on his nerves, he has a job working at a hotel, he has a girl who he cares about but can't exactly tell her, and he gets into some mischief. One thing sets him aside though, that is his love for basketball and his skills. These skills help lead his team into a tournament where his coach, and friend, Cal gets involved in some gambling. He sits Lonnie out because he is supposedly injured. Does Cal keep Lonnie on the bench and lose or does he put him in and have a better chance of winning? Read Hoops and find out.

Hoops by Walter Dean Myers is about a dedicated young basketball player named Lonnie. Even after his father left him when he was a little boy, he always wanted to play basketball. He thinks he has a chance of making it in the NBA, but one day when going the court to shoot some hoops, he met a wino named Cal who started taking trash about Lonnie's basketball skills. It turns out that Cal is the new coach of Lonnie's basketball team. When Lonnie's team gets a chance to be scouted to go to college, he learns that some heavy bettors want Lonnie to throw the game in the tournament. Will Lonnie throw the tournament or play like always does? I think Hoops is a book for people who love or play basketball, no one else. I love how it went into detail when talking about Lonnie and all the basketball players on court. The relationship with the characters are outstanding, I really knew how the characters felt about each other. It does have some language but other than that I

think you should get it.

Hoops, by Walter Dean Myers is a fast paced, action packed, fictional novel that focuses on Lonnie's love for basketball; as he lives in a dangerous environment. In the story, Lonnie because he lives in a dangerous environment he acts in which other people in his area are doing; which in his case is negative. For example, there was a part of the story when teenagers were stealing cargo from a truck, while the driver was inside a store talking to someone; when Lonnie saw this happen he decided to do it as well. This tells me that Lonnie is following the people that think they are above the law. Not only is their negative characters and plots in this novel, but there is also positive as well; like the character Cal One reason why he brings a positive plot because, Cal was a amazing professional basketball player, but then one day he made a horrible mistake that ruined his career and banned him from playing in the NBA anymore. With this memory of what messed up his life he tries to help Lonnie not make the same mistake he made. Hoops doesn't just have unique plots, it also has conflicts that will continue through the whole story. An example of this is when, the story first tells the readers about someone who made the deal with Cal, that messed up his life and career and his name was Tyrone. Later on we find out that Tyrone was trying to do the same thing to Lonnie; at the end the conflict between Cal and Tyrone becomes so violent and negative that Tyrone at the end kills Cal, but luckily Tyrone goes to jail at the end. So in my opinion hoops is a great book that has a fast paced plot, and great characters, i recommend this book to people who like basketball and action packed books.

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