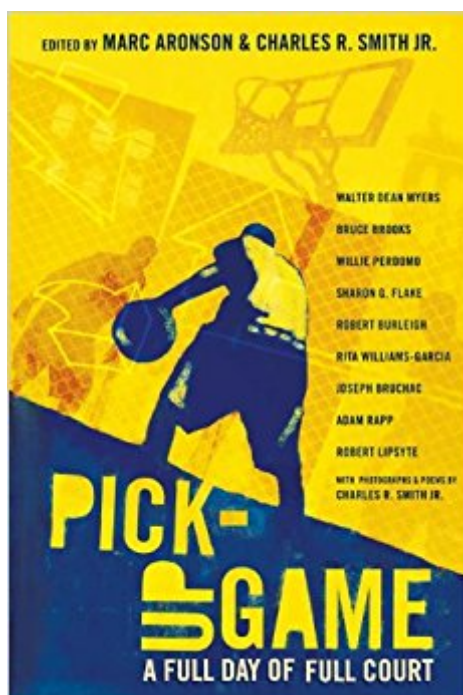


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# Pick-Up Game: A Full Day Of Full Court



## Synopsis

Pass! Shoot! Swish! An all-star team of YA authors scores spectacularly with an action-packed anthology about street basketball. It's one steamy July day at the West 4th Street Court in NYC, otherwise known as The Cage. Hotshot ESPN is wooing the scouts, Boo is struggling to guard the weird new guy named Waco, a Spike Lee wannabe has video rolling, and virgin Irene is sizing up six-foot-eight-and-a-half-inch Chester. Nine of YA literature's top writers, including Walter Dean Myers, Rita Williams-Garcia, Adam Rapp, Joseph Bruchac, and Sharon Flake reveal how it all goes down in a searing collection of short stories, in which each one picks up where the previous one ends. Characters weave in and out of narratives, perspectives change, and emotions play out for a fluid and fast-paced ode to the game. Crackling with humor, grit, and streetball philosophy, and featuring poems and photographs by Charles R. Smith Jr., this anthology is a slam dunk.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-Some of the most distinguished names in YA literature are represented in this collection of linked stories set on a celebrated New York City playground basketball court known as the Cage. Such luminaries as Walter Dean Myers, Bruce Brooks, Rita Williams-Garcia, and Robert Lipsyte examine the ways in which players, wannabes, and hangers-on interact in the vibrant, freewheeling subculture of inner-city playground hoops. All of the action takes place on one day, with recurring characters. The contributors offer different takes on them, forcing readers to consider the individuals from a variety of points of view. It is fascinating to see how these writers bring their own unique

social and artistic vision to the portrayal of the individuals who weave in and out of the narratives. The stories are of uniformly high quality; one of the real crowd-pleasers is Sharon G. Flake's "Virgins Are Lucky," which stars a sassy, self-respecting girl who decides not to text the handsome star player who has so casually given her his number. Other characters who will live on in readers' memories are Adam Rapp's smart-mouthed, sensitive eighth-grader recently rescued from homelessness by a brooding Iraq War veteran and Joseph Bruchac's Native American man, stricken with respiratory problems as a result of his rescue work at the World Trade Center. Tying all the stories together is a shared love and respect not only for the game itself, but also for the lavishly talented (and all-too-often fatally flawed) legends of New York City playground basketball. An outstanding collection that belongs in every high school library. --Richard Luzer, Fair Haven Union High School, VT (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nine writers (and one photographer-poet) join forces to describe one full day at "the Cage," a New York City pickup-court proving ground where talented unknowns fight for respect. In the afterword, editor Aronson explains that "we didn't let an author write a new story until the previous one was done." This kind of experimentation has disaster written all over it, but like a buzzer-beating, fadeaway jumper, this anthology squeaks out a win. The biggest names earn their starter status: Myers kicks it off with possibly the most straightforward entry, setting up an intriguing cast of characters; Rita Williams-Garcia focuses on a young filmmaker fascinated by the female baller Dominique (last seen in the author's *Jumped*, 2009); and Adam Rapp hits what is probably the book's canniest shot by fleshing out Waco, a tall, white, mysterious player who has glided through the previous chapters. Sharp-elbow action alternates with an almost spiritual grace; sure, it has its ups and downs, but that's sports. Grades 7-10. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a very creative, "different" book, combining a bit of poetry, chapter sections showing outdoor metal fence grids, and back-to-back stories written by different authors about the same basketball players. My favorite was by the woman author writing about a teenage virgin who was trying to interest a handsome, talented star--great feel to that story. What was conveyed to me in this volume was not any story line, but a feeling of being on a sweaty outdoor court. My favorite character? The boy with the dead eyes and cold breath.

I thought this book contained short stories written by black men, but it centered on basketball, I guess hence the name.

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