

We Beat the Street Reading Guide Questions

Chapter 1

1. Why did Sampson end up going with his brother Andre?
2. Describe Andre's attitude about taking care of his little brother.
3. What kinds of things do the boys discuss on their way to the park?
4. How does Sampson react to being in the hospital?
5. How does Sampson react to getting an X-Ray?

Chapter 2

1. Why is Rameck constantly getting into trouble?
2. Why does the principal want him to be in special education classes?
3. Describe the relationship Rameck has with his grandmother.
4. Why does Rameck get into a fight with Meatball?
5. How does Rameck feel about his mother?

Chapter 3

1. How are George and his brother Garland different?
2. Miss Johnson teaches Shakespeare to 3rd graders. What does this reveal about the expectations she has for her students?
3. Name one fact that the students learn when Miss Johnson teaches about Shakespeare.
4. What problem does George face when he is on the field trip at the concert?
5. What does Miss Johnson tell George to encourage him to go to college?

Chapter 4

1. How do the boys respond after seeing a man beaten? What does that tell the reader about the environment the boys are growing up in?
2. Why does Sampson end up getting caught trying to steal?
3. What happens to Noody and Will when the robbery takes place?
4. What does Sampson think when Jack lets them go?
5. How does the author hint that Sampson will get into trouble again at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 5

1. What does Rameck like about being in the program?
2. What kind of problems has Rameck's family been facing when he asks for new shoes?
3. How does the reader know that Rameck's grandmother doesn't mind sacrificing for him?
4. Why does Rameck give his mother the money for the electric bill?
5. At the end of the chapter, what does Rameck find out?

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Chapter 6/7

1. How are doctors and dentists alike when it comes down to their academics after graduation?
2. What kind of impact does George's visit to the dentist have on him?
3. When Reggie is teaching the boys kung fu, what does he say will help them resist the temptation of drugs and violence?
4. How does Sampson end up getting arrested?
5. What happens to Razor?

Chapter 8/9

1. How does Sampson hide the fact that he's intelligent?
2. Why does Sampson's mother want him to go to University High School?
3. What does Rameck like the most about performing in school plays?
4. Why are Rameck's old friends a bad influence on him?
5. What does Rameck wonder after being shot at by the Arlington boys?

Chapter 10

1. Why is it hard for Rameck to tell his "boys" he doesn't want to do something?
2. Sampson and Frank are held at gunpoint over what?
3. How does Sampson celebrate his birthday?
4. What does Spud suggest to Sampson to make some money?
5. Why does Sampson decide not to sell drugs?

Chapter 11

1. What frustrates Rameck while in history class one day?
2. How do the students plan on getting African-American history classes taught?
3. What is the USO?
4. How does Rameck find himself in trouble with his biology teacher?
5. Why doesn't the teacher recommend that Rameck be expelled?

Chapter 12

1. What kinds of careers do the boys discuss going into after high school?
2. How do the boys end up at the Seton Hall presentation?
3. What are some of the benefits of attending Seton Hall?
4. Why might the summer school courses benefit Sampson, George, and Rameck?
5. How is Rameck finally convinced to apply to Seton Hall?

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Chapter 13

1. Why do Rameck and his friends beat up the crackhead?
2. To them, what does the crackhead represent?
3. Why doesn't Rameck's mother come and get him from jail?
4. What are some things Rameck has to deal with while he's in jail?
5. How does Rameck's case end up being thrown out?

Chapter 14

1. Why does Sampson agree to robbing the drug dealers?
2. How does Sampson end up being arrested?
3. What was Sampson's possible sentence for his crime?
4. How does Sampson realize just how much his mother loves him?
5. What does Sampson realize after playing basketball with his friends?

Chapter 15

1. Why does George want to be a dentist?
2. Sampson admits that he wouldn't have tried getting into Seton Hall if it weren't for what?
3. In George's interview, Carla states that minority doctors should return to their neighborhoods. Why might this be so important?
4. What may be some fears that the three boys have after getting accepted into Seton Hall?
5. Why were the families so proud of George, Sampson, and Rameck?

Chapter 16

1. What is one thing that the boys enjoy about their summer program?
2. What does Carla say is necessary to a doctor's success?
3. What is Rameck's main problem according to Carla?
4. Why do the students think it's okay to wear anything to work when they become doctors?
5. Dr. Francis Blackman states it's important for African-Americans to become doctors. Why?

Chapter 17

1. What does George mean when he states he feels like "a rock in a snowstorm"?
2. Why does Rameck feel like he has to be violent towards the student who wouldn't move in the hallway?
3. What does Ujima stand for?
4. Why is Ujima established?
5. What words of encouragement and advice does George offer the young kids?

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Chapter 18

1. How did the boys get inspired to be professional rappers?
2. What's the name of their rap group?
3. What famous artists did the boys meet?
4. Why does their rap career end?
5. Why does Rameck finally decide to let his dreams of being a rapper go?

Chapter 19

1. What is Access Med?
2. Why is Sampson having doubts about becoming a doctor?
3. How does George's mother want him to pay her back?
4. How does George get hustled out of \$45?
5. What does George learn how to do for Dr. Nicholas' class?

Chapter 20

1. Why do Rameck and his friend Dax get pulled over after the Tyson-Holyfield fight?
2. Why are they arrested?
3. What would happen to Rameck's career if he had a record?
4. What problem does Rameck have with his 1st attorney?
5. Why was the case thrown out?

Chapter 21

1. What kind of problem is Sampson having in his classes?
2. What kind of disadvantage does Sampson have to deal with compared to others in his medical class?
3. What are some of the things Sampson did to prepare for his retake of the medical exam?
4. What encouraging words does Sampson say after he passed the test?
5. How did Sampson end up at Newark Beth Israel for his job placement?

Chapter 22

1. When did the doctors graduate?
2. What is Sampson thinking when he graduates?
3. What is Rameck thinking when he graduates?
4. What is each character known for?
5. What do the friends toast to?