Chapters 1-3 THINK Questions

1. If you were Lonnie’s mother, how would you treat him?
2. Lonnie wants to get a basketball scholarship so he can go to college. Is there anything like that you are working toward? Explain.
3. Describe what Lonnie does when he sees the liquor store being held up.
4. When Lonnie goes back to the Grant, he finds that his manager has taken the liquor that he was hiding. Why?
5. What is the point of the basketball tournament that the boys enter?
6. The team loses their first game, but something else happens that makes them very upset. What is it?
7. What is Mary-Ann worried about when she calls Lonnie in chapter 2?
8. Describe what happens when Cal finally shows up at the center with the uniforms.
9. Explain what happened that ruined Cal’s career.
10. When the boys begin their practices in the new gym at the beginning of Chapter 3, Cal says they are going “back to school.” Explain what he means by this statement.
11. In your opinion, what does Cal mean when he says, “Where we been don’t matter so much as where we are now, do it?”
12. What are your predictions about what will happen next based on what you have read in the first three chapters?

Chapters 4-6 THINK Questions

1. Explain what Cal means when he says, “Just because you’re good at something doesn’t mean you have to make it.”
2. Describe what has happened to Mary-Ann and why she is so upset at the end of Chapter 4?
3. What do Mary-Ann and Lonnie discover in the envelope with Paul’s name on it?
4. Explain why Paul started spending lots of money on Joni and why he took the checks.

5. Explain what Lonnie means when he calls people “la-di-da.”

6. Why is the task required to quit practice and have a soda so hard for the boys?

7. Who was Jeffery and how did he die?

8. Lonnie and Mary-Ann are both very fond of each other. However, they have different feelings about the future of the relationship. Predict what you think will happen in their relationship.

9. What should Lonnie have done to help Paul? What would you do if you were Lonnie?

Chapters 7-9 **THINK Questions**

1. How important is the setting of the story? (If it were set somewhere else, how might it be different?)

2. Lonnie says, “For simple dudes like us there’s sure a lot of stuff going on.” What does he mean by this?

3. When Lonnie finds out that Cal is in jail, he is determined to raise money for Cal’s bail. Who comes up with the money and how does he or she get it?

4. Explain why Cal was in jail.

5. In your opinion, what does Aggie mean when she says, “How many times you got to be hurt before you know where the pain is coming from?”

6. While Cal and Lonnie are discussing the game, Paul comes in with Mary-Ann. Explain what happened to her in detail.

7. Explain what happens in the locker room after the game.

8. Answer the questions below in **complete sentences** about the following line from the ending of the book:
   “I’m going to try to get into some college, any way I can... If basketball can get me there, okay. I got to get my game a little better first, though.”

   a. Who says the line and who is he/she talking to?

   b. How does this represent a change of attitude from the beginning of the story?

   c. What does the character mean by “I got to get my game a little better”?
9. What is your definition of a hero? Is Lonnie or Cal a hero? Why?