



Prestwick House
Response Journal™

Sample

Prestwick House

Response Journal

Reflections: A Student Response Journal



*The Moves
Make the Man*
Bruce Brooks

Click here
to learn more
about this
Response Journal!



Click here
to find more
Classroom Resources
for this title!



Prestwick House

More from Prestwick House

Literature

Literary Touchstone Classics
Literature Teaching Units

Grammar and Writing

College and Career Readiness: Writing
Grammar for Writing

Vocabulary

Vocabulary Power Plus
Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

Reading

Reading Informational Texts
Reading Literature



 **Prestwick House**
Response Journal
Reflections: A Student Response Journal



*The Moves
Make the Man*

Bruce Brooks



Prestwick House

Copyright © 1990 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.
1-800-932-4593 • www.prestwickhouse.com

Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 978-1-60389-599-6

Item No. 202183

Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

Getting Started

1. One of the main characters in *The Moves Make the Man* has an intense love of basketball. The game is everything to him. If you were asked to choose a favorite sport, which one would it be? Choose the single sport that you consider your favorite. Then, make a list of at least ten things that you like about that sport. From that list, choose the item you like most and explain in a short paragraph why you prefer that on aspect of the sport.
2. Authors usually have a reason for choosing a specific title for a book. Even though you are just beginning to read *The Moves Make the Man*, make a guess about what you think the book's title means. Then, in a short paragraph, explain why you think the author chose to name his book *The Moves Make the Man*.
3. As you read this book, keep a list of all of the words that you don't recognize. At the end of each chapter, look up the definitions of those words and write them in your reading journal.

Chapter 3

7. Jerome begins his story about meeting Bix by saying that he first saw Bix one day just after school let out. Jerome remembers because he likes school, and he was sad that the school year had ended. Some people do enjoy school, while others do not. Make a list of at least 10 things that you like about school. Then, using at least five of the things on your list, write a two-paragraph essay to be read by new students to your school. In your essay, explain to the new students why your school is great.
8. Jerome says that winter is his favorite time of the year, especially since he loves basketball and basketball is a winter sport. Write a letter to Jerome, telling him your favorite season. Be sure to include lots of reasons why the season you chose is your favorite.
9. Jerome hates baseball. He thinks that baseball is too polite a sport. In fact, he compares the game to a tea party. Write a posting for a Little League website, defending baseball against people like Jerome who think the game is too refined, slow, and polite.

Chapter 4

10. When Jerome goes to see his brother Maurice's baseball team play against the white Seven-Up team, he makes fun of the white team's uniforms. The thing that bothers him the most is the Seven-Up logo on the white team's uniforms. In fact, Jerome says that the Seven-Up logo bothers him so much that he stops drinking the soda altogether. Apparently, he can't get past the meaning of the strange picture on the logo. Using the description of the logo given in the book, write a letter from a Seven-Up representative to Jerome, explaining what the logo on your soda bottle means.

Chapter 7

14. After the ballgame, Jerome looks for Bix. Even though Jerome hates baseball, he was so impressed with Bix's performance that he wants to meet him and ask him to explain some points of the game. Bix is nowhere to be found, though.

Jerome becomes angry when he can't find Bix, and he leaves the cookout. He just can't stand to be around the ballpark anymore. Jerome is shocked at his own behavior, but it doesn't make him any less angry.

We've all had times when our actions have shocked us. For example, have you ever gotten mad and told someone off, even though you're really an easygoing person? Have you ever been very sad, yet burst into laughter? Write a two-paragraph essay in which you explain a time when you were surprised by your own behavior.

15. Jerome's anger at Bix's leaving the game is almost overwhelming. Write a section for a study guide for *The Moves Make the Man*. In this section, explain to readers why Jerome is so angry with Bix, a person he has never even met.
16. The writer of this book, Bruce Brooks, has a distinctive way of writing. He gives lots of details about the baseball game with the Seven-Ups. For example, he describes the uniforms, certain spectators like Bix's mom, and the field itself. In a well-developed essay, describe a sporting event that you have attended or have seen on television. Make sure to use lots of details to describe the game.

Chapter 13

28. When the Chestnut Street Junior High basketball coach asks Jerome if he plays basketball by himself, Jerome says that “[he] play[s] in a class by [himself],” meaning that his basketball skills are so good that no one else can match them. The white boys think that Jerome’s statement proves how arrogant he is, but Jerome’s statement could also be seen as a reflection of his confidence. Write a dialogue between yourself and a friend, arguing whether Jerome is arrogant or simply confident in saying that his skills are “in a class by [themselves].” You may begin like this

You: Jerome has a lot of confidence. That doesn’t necessarily make him a bad person.

Friend: Well, if someone said something like that to you, you might feel differently...

29. The coach’s treatment of Jerome is horrible and mean. Even though it is obvious that Jerome is a talented basketball player, the coach rigs the practice game so that Jerome won’t make the team. As the parent of one of the Chestnut Street Junior High players, write a letter to the school principal, complaining about how the coach treated Jerome. A good way to begin might be:

Dear Principal,

I was outraged to find out that...

30. Vic knows that Jerome is a good basketball player. He is the only one of the players, in fact, to protest the coach’s actions by walking out of the gym. Think about a time when you stood up for someone or something that you felt was important. Then, write a short e-mail to Vic, supporting his decision to walk out of practice.