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Date _____



Hoop Kings & Hoop Queens by Charles R. Smith, Jr.

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video and
Author Interview

What's It About?

If you're looking for a poetry collection that will fire up basketball fans of all ages, Charles R. Smith Jr.'s high-energy series is a slam dunk. With his signature blend of rap-inspired rhythm, bold wordplay, and dynamic photography, Smith brings the court to life, profiling some of the biggest legends and rising stars in both the NBA and WNBA. From the power and grace of Candace Parker and A'ja Wilson to the explosive moves of LeBron James and Steph Curry, each poem spotlights the unique skills, styles, and swagger of the players who dominate the game. Readers will meet the towering presence of Shaquille O'Neal, the lightning speed of Russell Westbrook, and the versatile finesse of Elena Delle Donne—all celebrated through rhythmic, lyrical storytelling that matches their on-court magic. Perfect for classrooms, poetry units, or any young athlete who reads with a ball in their hand, this collection goes beyond stats and scores to capture the heart of the game.

Who Wrote It?

Charles R. Smith Jr. is an award-winning children's book author, photographer and poet with over thirty books to his credit. His awards include a Coretta Scott King Award. Charles combines his passions of writing and photography with a variety of subjects that spark his interest. Charles says, "I want to show students, particularly boys, that there are many ways to pursue their interests, no matter what they may be."



Check out Charles' [YouTube channel](#) to learn more about him and hear him read his poems so you can listen to them truly come to life!

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.