



THE
WIZENARD SERIES
SEASON ONE

CREATED BY
KOBE BRYANT

WRITTEN BY
WESLEY KING

BOOK DISCUSSION GUIDE

When Rolabi Wizenard entered Fairwood Community Center to take over the coaching position for basketball training camp, everything changed. The West Bottom Badgers started the summer as lost losers, and through grana, determination, and hard work, they learned to face their fears and become more confident, skilled teammates. If you face your fears, you can beat anyone. Season one is beginning. Will the magic continue?

**“To young athletes who commit to doing
the hard work. The process always pays off.”**

—KOBE BRYANT

As you read the book, figure out the meaning of unknown words in context. You may know the meanings from **Training Camp**. Discuss.

Why are these vocabulary words important to the story?
Grana, Wizenard, the Bottom, Dren, Argen, Talin, proverb





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

After the first game of season one, the Badgers are disappointed and down on themselves. How does this quote relate to the game, the beginning of the book, and more importantly, life?

“Glory lives in the process, not on the scoreboard.”

How does the author create a visualization of the setting?

How does the setting affect Reggie’s life?

How would the book change if the setting were in a different time and place?

How does the setting relate to the tone of the story?

Who is the main character in *Season One*?

What is Reggie like? Discuss his strengths, weaknesses, hopes, and fears.

Find evidence from the book that suggests:

- Basketball is Reggie’s life
- Reggie is in a bad place emotionally
- Reggie lives in a bad part of town
- Reggie is a loner
- Reggie has good friends
- People believe in Reggie more than he believes in himself
- Reggie lives with his grandma and his little sister
- Reggie’s family is poor

How do Reggie’s thoughts, feelings, words, and actions define him?

Why is this proverb from the story significant to Reggie’s character and life? Do you agree with it?

**“Every human is born to change the world.
Unfortunately, some are changed by the world first.”**

Describe Gran’s character as a matriarch, caregiver, provider, and disciplinarian.

Gran is described as “a small woman,” but “she filled the room.” What does this mean? Do you know anyone who is small in stature but large in personality?





What kind of character is Rolabi?

Is showing up enough?

How is “grana” explained?

What are some of the themes in the book?

How are the themes of basketball, friendship, self-confidence, fear, hope, and magic interwoven throughout the story?

Why did Reggie feel that “grana was mocking him”?

What lesson is Rolabi trying to teach Reggie?

Gran tells Reggie that saying “I’m fine,” no matter how many times he says it, doesn’t make it so. What does she mean by that?

What did you want to tell Reggie as you were reading the book? What feelings did he evoke in you?

Rolabi senses fear before the game. What does this tell you about the outcome of the game? Why?

Rolabi tells the team, “You assume the arrogant are superior.” What is he referring to? Do you think this is a common assumption? What does Rolabi want the team to know?

Why does this quote pertain to Rain? “If our team has but one wheel, we can only drive in circles.” Is this true?

Reggie knows that Rolabi is talking about him when he says, “We are only as strong as our weakest link,” and, “If even one brick is loose, the entire wall will tumble.” Why does Rolabi say this?

How does Reggie’s little sister, P, support him?

How are Reggie and P alike? What do they learn from each other as the plot develops?

What are the consequences of feeling sorry for yourself?

What does Reggie need to break out of his “funk”?

Describe one of the defining moments for Reggie.





Reggie needs to choose his role: victim or hero. Which does he choose?

What strategies does Reggie use to turn his life around?

How do Kobe Bryant and Wesley King use symbolism in the book?

- Statue of Talin
- The little box next to Reggie's bed that his mother gave him
- The old book about grana
- A piece of the mesh net
- Reggie's shadow

SCENE-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Page 82: What is the significance of the conversation between Gran, Reggie, and P?

Page 97: The conversation between Reggie and Rain is eye-opening. What impact does it have on the story?

Page 153: How does this part of the story show growth?

OVERARCHING THEMES

What is Reggie searching for more than anything in the world?

Does Reggie ever find the truth?

Why is Twig's pool party a turning point for Reggie?

How do Reggie's teammates and friends support him? What kind of people are they? What do they do and say to reveal themselves?

How did you feel at the end of the story when Reggie misses his second free throw?

How does Reggie's personal transformation affect his sister's outlook on life?

Is there someone in your life who can influence your personal journey?

Why does the end of the season feel like a beginning for Reggie?

Reggie relishes the feeling of having worked, won, and EARNED it. Why does earning it make it sweeter?





Why do you think Kobe Bryant and Wesley King end the book before the nationals?

What is the purpose of this book? Why do you think it was important for Kobe Bryant to create the Wizenard series?

What does this say about Kobe as a person?

What is Kobe's legacy?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Create a sports broadcast for the basketball game: **West Bottom Badgers** vs. **The Milton Marauders**.
- Create a newspaper article for the sports section of the *Bottom News* explaining how the West Bottom Badgers make it to nationals.
- Read the Wizenard Proverbs from the book. Write your interpretation of each based on the story and how you can apply these to your own life. Use this chart to help you.

Proverb	Interpretation	Application

- Write a paragraph about the box by Reggie's bed and what the note means. "*He has emptied it. You must fill it. He will try to stop you at all costs.*"





CREATIVE WRITING ACTIVITY

Season One is the sequel to *Training Camp* in the Wizenard series.

In the spaces below, plan out the sequel to *Season One*, then use your ideas to write the first chapter of the book. Be sure to create a **Wizenard Proverb** for your book. Share with the group.

TITLE

Characters in Sequel	Setting of Sequel
Problems Characters Will Face	How Problems Will Be Resolved

