

Gabriel Rivera

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Professor LaRosa

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Adaptation Treatment

The book that I choose to be adapted to film is called *Slam!*, a young adult novel by Walter Dean Myers. The book chronicles the life of seventeen-year old Greg “Slam” Harris. He lives in Harlem ,N.Y., a neighborhood filled with violence, drug use, and crime. Greg attends the predominately white, prestigious Latimer Arts Magnet High School in the South Bronx. Greg was accepted into the school as a result of a diversity initiative established in the school. He is a passionate and talented basketball player. He was nicknamed “Slam” by his friends because of his prowess on the basketball court. Greg’s obsession is so great that he carries a basketball everywhere he goes. His dream is to go to college and play in the NBA. Greg is a player on the Latimer basketball team. When Greg first arrived at Latimer the team was failing, but after a few months he was leading them to victory. His father is unemployed and a drunk. The rock of the family is his mother, who constantly pressures Greg to work hard in school. Greg’s younger brother, Derek acts like a tough guy and Greg worries that he will get himself into trouble. Greg’s best friend, Ice, attends Greg’s old school, Carver High in Harlem. Like Greg, Ice is a talented basketball player who plays for Carver High School, a basketball powerhouse. Although, they have been best friends since they were kids Greg is beginning to doubt his affiliation with Ice. Greg has noticed peculiarities in Ice’s behavior. He has also noticed that Ice has been flaunting very expensive items that he cannot afford. So, he is concerned Ice is up to no

good. Greg is a great basketball player, but a poor student. His principal, Mr. Tate, has banned him from playing basketball until his grades improve. Greg is distraught at the news because for him basketball is everything. He suffers from anger issues, which often causes him to get in trouble at school, on the streets, and on the court. Greg lacks focus and initiative, as a result he has not given any real thought to how he will get into college or play for the NBA. He is a selfish player who showboats and thinks only about advancing his skills. This has caused disunity between him and the other team members. To add to his problems he is now butting heads with his Coach Nipper. To further compound the situation his grandmother has been hospitalized.

Slam is having a difficult time. His academics are a mess, his personal life is a mess, and the coach is not putting him in the games. Coach Nipper is teaching Slam a lesson for being such a self-centered player. The coach has been overheard telling someone that he won't put Slam in the game because he needs an entire team not just one man. Slam is feeling frustrated and angry. To make matters worse he is failing in math and his father is not pleased that he needs a tutor. After a game Ice invited Slam to hangout with him and a couple of girls. When the game was over, Ice and a couple of girls are waiting for him in a Mercedes Benz. Turns out the car belongs to Ice. When he asked Ice how he was able to afford such an expensive car, Ice appears annoyed about the questions and did not answer the question. Once he got in the car, Slam soon drops the subject and decides to enjoy himself. Slam has a make-out session with one of the girls in the backseat. Unfortunately, for Slam his transgression will not go unpunished. His girlfriend Mtisha found out he had been kissing another girl and now she doesn't want anything to do with him. His kid brother, Derek lost the video camera he had borrowed from school and now the one thing that was keeping him together is also gone. The coach finally relented and put him in a few

games. But just as he started to feel good again, the team experienced a hard loss and now he must face off with his best friend, Ice, in a championship game. Luck begins to shine on him once again. His girlfriend decides she will help him with math, the video camera is found, and his team won the championship.

So it all seems perfect, too perfect in fact. At the after game party, Slam experienced the worst pain and betrayal ever. He discovered that his best friend is a drug dealer when he witnessed Ice sell crack cocaine to a junkie. Enraged by what he saw Slam tried to dismiss Ice and walk away from him. Ice confused by Slams behavior continually intercepted him and asked “what is your problem?” This soon elevated into a physical altercation which resulted in the end of their friendship. Slam was so hurt by this revelation that he cried. But this was exactly what Slam needed to understand that he needed to make changes and plan for his future. He understood what he had to do to make things right with the team, his video came out great, his grandmother was out of the hospital, his girlfriend helped him improve his math grade, and eased the pain he was feeling because of Ice. Slam searched deep inside and for the first time in his life he realized he had grown emotionally, personally, and morally. Nothing can stop Slam now.