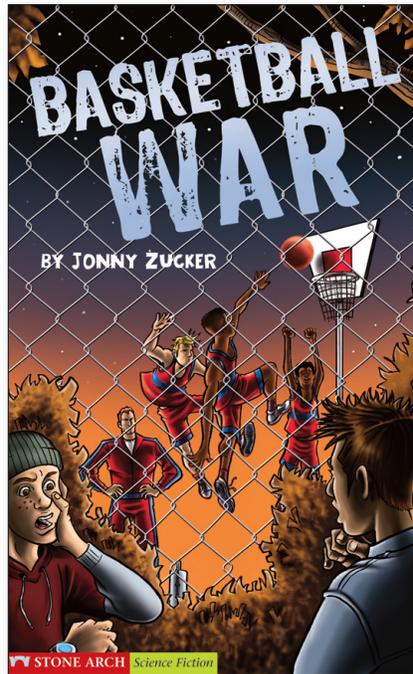




READER'S THEATER (Teacher's Version)



Basketball War **by Jonny Zucker**

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-59889-181-2
HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-59889-009-9

Characters:

- Jim - struggling reader**
- Ali - reads below grade level**
- Coach Hunt - reads above grade level**
- Narrator - reads at grade level**

Genre: Science Fiction

Ages: 10-15

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Basketball War page 1

- Narrator:** Jim and Ali play for the Lions, the number-one-ranked team. When their rival team, the Jets, hires a new coach and selects a new team, the Jets begin to win. Jim and Ali are suspicious of the Jets' success.
- Jim:** I know those guys are good, but not THAT good!
- Ali:** How can a coach change his team that much?
- Jim:** Something else is going on.
- Narrator:** The athletes decide to watch their rivals practice. One night, after the Jets finish a practice at their school, Jim and Ali decide to follow one of the players as he walks home.
- Jim:** Let's just go talk to him.
- Ali:** Yeah, and find out what makes their new coach so special.
- Narrator:** But the Jets player was walking too fast. They had to hurry to follow him.
- Jim:** I thought he was walking home. Where's he going?
- Ali:** He's walking downtown.
- Narrator:** Then they saw the Jets player turn into an alley.
- Ali:** Come on. Let's go talk to him.
- Narrator:** But when they ran into the alley . . .
- Ali:** It's a dead end!
- Jim:** And the guy is gone! Where did he go?
- Ali:** He just disappeared.
- Narrator:** This is getting weird. So the next night, Jim and Ali follow the Jets team back to their locker room. Jim and Ali can't reach the window, but they can hear everything Coach Hunt says.

Basketball War page 2

Coach Hunt:

Now that we've learned about basketball, we need to find out about a thing called baseball. When we know everything about these sports, we'll be able to take over the world. Muhahah!

Jim:

Quick! Shhh! Over here.

Narrator:

Jim had made a pile of bricks to stand on so both of them could look into the window.

Ali:

I don't believe it!

Jim:

What are those things?

Narrator:

When Jim and Ali looked through the window, they saw one large and eleven smaller-sized, light-blue, slimy creatures. The larger creature opened a metal case, pulled out a disk, and put it in his mouth. As soon as he did this, he turned into Coach Hunt. The other creatures placed disks in their mouths, and took on human form.

Jim:

They look like the Jets!

Coach Hunt:

Remember, these disks can only make us look human for six hours. If any of you are seen without your human cover, then we have failed and will have to return home. Our research will stop, and the war will be delayed.

Narrator:

All of a sudden, the brick pile fell over. Ali hit the locker room window before falling over.

Ali:

Ahhhhh!

Jim:

Look out!

Coach Hunt:

Who's there?

Narrator:

What will happen to the boys now? Will Coach Hunt and the Jets players take them prisoner? Will Jim and Ali escape? And what exactly are those strange, slimy creatures? Read along to find out the conclusion of *Basketball War*!

THE END