

**oo**  
**(book)**

**Words**

rookie

hooky

plywood

precook

webfoot

firewood

handbook

understood

cookbook

football

woodpecker

fishhook

mistook

footprint

goodwill

notebook

goodness

manhood

bookshelf

scrapbook

**oo**  
**(school & book)**

## **Nonsense Words**

**Note to teacher:** These nonsense words can be pronounced oo (school) or oo (book). Both pronunciations should be practiced by the student. The most common pronunciation is oo .

sook

doob

coom

foof

boog

mook

hoon

roon

shoob

looz

voof

chook

thool

whoob

yoop

stook

swoog

broob

plood

croot

**oo**  
**(book)**

## **Sentences**

1. Jack took a good look at the wooden box in his bedroom.
2. Mom asked me to precook the food before dinner.
3. That must be the red striped woodpecker making so much racket!
4. “My goodness,” yelled Al, “There’s a fish at the end of my hook!”
5. We made shelves from plywood in shop class today.
6. It was hard to say farewell to Steve again when he left for good.
7. The rookie shook with nerves before his turn at bat.
8. No one in the class understood what to do with their handbook.
9. The crook must have overlooked the gems stashed away in the safe.
10. You should see the fantastic sunset against the foothills.

## **Hooked on Hoops**

In 1891, a 30 year old minister-trainee was given an undertaking that would have an everlasting impact on the history of sports. His job was to devise a game for the sole purpose of “taming” a class of 18 disorderly men who were all studying to become YMCA \*secretaries. The class consisted of a lively bunch of football and rugby (English football) players who were difficult to deal with and hated being cooped up inside a stuffy classroom.

In 1891, the east coast was suffering from an extremely long and cold winter. The men were all bursting with restless energy and “cabin fever”. They became even more hot tempered after being told that their winter sports program would consist of playing leapfrog and throwing \*Indian clubs. When two of their best instructors walked off the job a rookie named James Naismith was hired. His boss gave him just 14 days to bring order to the YMCA by “taming the beasts”.

\*secretaries & Indian are non-phonetic at this stage and should be pronounced for the student if necessary.

**Hooked on Hoops****continued**

Naismith was studying to become a minister when he took a job at the YMCA. He was interested in athletics as well as the ministry, so the job fit him perfectly. His goal was to invent a game that would interest and tire even the most restless football or rugby player. The game had to have rules that were easy to memorize so that anyone could play. There also had to be a degree of difficulty to it so that the players would not become quickly bored. Finally, the game had to be played inside so the players could “blow off some steam” and not freeze on the cold winter playing fields.

Naismith wanted his game to be different than rugby and football, so he made tackling and running with the ball illegal. The ball could only be passed from player to player and with no dribbling permitted. To keep the game from being just a game of “keep-away”, Naismith decreed that teams could score by shooting the ball into two boxes, each set aloft at both ends of the \*gym. James

\***gym** is non-phonetic at this stage and should be pronounced for the student if necessary.

**Hooked on Hoops**  
**continued**

Naismith did not know what to call this game. He was a modest man and did not wish to name it after himself. The story goes that Naismith asked a handyman named James Stebbins to hang two boxes from the gym balcony that would act as goals. When Stebbins went to the storeroom to look for some boxes he could only find peach baskets. So he took the baskets and secured them to the balcony railing at each end of the gym. Thanks to Mr. Stebbins and the peach baskets, the name of the game became basketball and not “box-ball”!

At the end of 14 days, James Naismith posted 13 rules that would govern the first game of basketball ever played. “Coach” Naismith divided the class of 18 into two teams of nine. Nine players per team stood on the playing field at the same time. At the end of the first game, the winning shot was a 25 foot under-handed toss that landed inside a peach basket. The final score was one basket to

### **Hooked on Hoops** continued

zero—a rather close game!

James Naismith's 13 rules still strongly effect modern day basketball. In today's game, the baskets are ten feet off the \*ground. The reason: the YMCA's balcony railing stood at exactly ten feet off the ground and the railing is what suspended the peach baskets. In today's game, backboards are part of the net. The reason: backboards were added to keep the fans sitting behind the baskets from grabbing at the ball. The entire basis of basketball today is not that much different than one hundred years ago: two teams shoot at two goals and the team with the most goals wins the game.

Basketball has developed over the years too. For example, the first ball to be used was not a real basketball, but a soccer ball! The act of dribbling as we know it did not take effect until 1929. When the game began, the peach baskets had intact bottoms so each time a basket was made the ball had to be fished out

**\*ground** is non-phonetic at this stage and should be pronounced for the student if necessary.

### Hooked on Hoops continued

from the basket by hand. Players no longer shoot balls into peach baskets, they shoot at open nets with metal rims. In 1891, players used a two-hand under-handed throw from between the legs. This evolved into a one handed jumper, the hook shot, and a slam dunk. Free throws did not become standard until 1894. Before then, the penalty for bumping into another player was one \*point for the other team with no free throw. The first game was played with nine players per team, today only five players per team play at one time.

It took years for some YMCAs to permit the game of basketball to be played in their gyms. They felt that the game was too unrestrained and that players could get hurt. This did not seem to effect the overall popularity of the game. As a result of a YMCA class of 18 disorderly men who were “tamed” by a rookie teacher named James Naismith, basketball is one of the most popular, if not **the** most popular, sport in the United States. As a result of an event that happened over 100 years ago, an entire \*nation became hooked on hoops.

\***point** & **nation** are non-phonetic at this stage and should be pronounced for the student if necessary.



# "Hoops"

## Comprehension Questions

**Note to Teacher:** These questions are for the teacher to read to the student (s). Use these questions to stimulate discussion during and after reading the selection.

- \_\_\_ E 1. Why were the men so restless?
- \_\_\_ C 2. What were Naismith's requirements for the game he wanted to design?
- \_\_\_ C 3. How did basketball get its name?
- \_\_\_ C 4. Why are baskets 10 feet off the ground?
- \_\_\_ AN 5. What are some similarities between today's game and the original game? differences?
- \_\_\_ C 6. Why was a backboard added to the basket?
- \_\_\_ E 7. Why do you think the number of players has dropped from 9 to 5?
- \_\_\_ E 8. What do you like about basketball?
- \_\_\_ AP 9. What skills does a good basketball player need to have?
- \_\_\_ E 10. How do you suppose the author learned about the history of basketball?

### Key—Bloom's Taxonomy

**K** = **Knowledge**  
(recalling information)  
**C** = **Comprehension**  
(understanding meaning)  
**AP** = **Application**  
(using learning in new situations)

**S** = **Synthesis**  
(using parts to create original whole)  
**E** = **Evaluation**  
(judgment based on criteria)  
**AN** = **Analysis**  
(ability to see parts and relationships)