

## ***The Punch* by John Feinstein**

English Language Arts, 9th Grade

### WHAT'S THE STORY?

In 1977, Rudy Tomjanovich and Kermit Washington became entwined in a single punch that would change not only their lives, but how professional basketball is played today. Because the punch dislodged Tomjanovich's skull and nearly destroyed both men's careers, the scuffle never settled as a dusty bit of NBA trivia. Instead, it nearly superseded both men's notable achievements. The history of that punch (it could not, by any standards, be considered a fight) and the fate of the two men are the subjects of John Feinstein's *The Punch*.

### CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

*The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.*

- **Unit 3: Communicating Ideas**
  - Essential Question: “How do we form and support an idea?”
- **Unit 4: Constructing an Argument**
  - Essential Question: “What makes an effective argument?”

### KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.. RI.9.6
- Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums, determining which details are emphasized in each account. RI.9.7
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning. RL.9.8
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RI.9.1
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text. RI.9.2
- Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them. RI.9.3
- Analyze documents of historical and literary significance, including how they address related themes and concepts. RI.9.9
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to

comprehend more fully when reading. RI.9.10

- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. RI.9.11
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RI.9.12
- Read and comprehend high quality informational text of appropriate quantitative and qualitative complexity for Grades 9-10. RI.9.13