

2 Basketball Practice

10 Roger and Gary are brothers. Roger has basketball
19 practice with his team, the Rockets, every day after
30 school. All the kids on the team are between nine and
39 eleven years old. After Roger's mom picks his younger
51 brother Gary up from school, they go to the park to watch
53 Roger practice.

65 Roger is tall and is good at passing the ball to his
75 teammates. He is also good at shooting free throws. He
86 hopes to play on his high school team someday. Gary is
98 only seven years old, and is too young to play, but he
108 enjoys watching his brother. Gary is proud of his brother
119 and hopes to play basketball like him when he gets older.

128 At home, Roger always seems to have a basketball
141 close by, under his arm, or next to his bed while he sleeps.

151 He even has one of those plastic toy basketball hoops
163 attached to the top of the door to his bedroom. At night,
174 before he goes to sleep, he and Gary throw balled-up
184 socks toward the rim and count how many ‘baskets’ each
188 one of them makes.

195 Roger sometimes watches basketball games on TV
208 with his dad, but he would rather just play ‘b-ball’ (as he
221 and his friends call it), with his friends at the park, or in
232 his driveway with other kids who live on his street. Roger
241 recently started practicing dribbling with his left hand and
252 between his legs. He isn’t learning how to do these things
263 to show off, but rather to be able to outmaneuver players
275 who are guarding him in a game. Roger is dedicated to the
278 game of basketball!