

## 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!