

REVIEWS

Strong Inside is superbly written, hard to put down, and fascinating for sports fans and non-sports fans alike – **BookPage**

Brings to life the Civil Rights struggle in gripping, personal detail – **Sports Illustrated**

Nuanced and complex, Strong Inside is an invaluable resource for studying the state of race relations in the US, both past and present. Highly recommended – **Choice**

Strong Inside is both an insightful and entertaining read. It has the pace of a page-turning novel and is a class above the standard sports biography – **The Huffington Post**

Thorough and engaging. A long-overdue tribute to this little-known player – **The Washington Post**



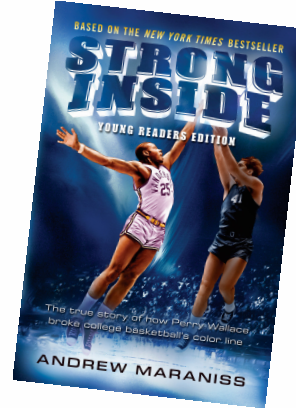
STRONG INSIDE

Young Readers Edition

\$17.99

978-0399548345

Middle Grade
Ages 10 & up
Grades 5 & up

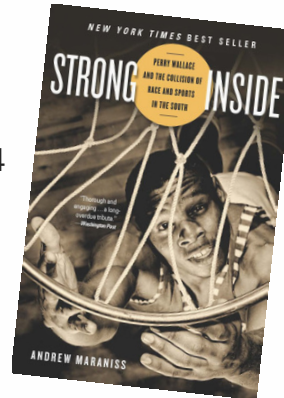


Based on the 'Adult' Book

\$35

978-0826520234

Ages 15 & up
Grades 9 & up

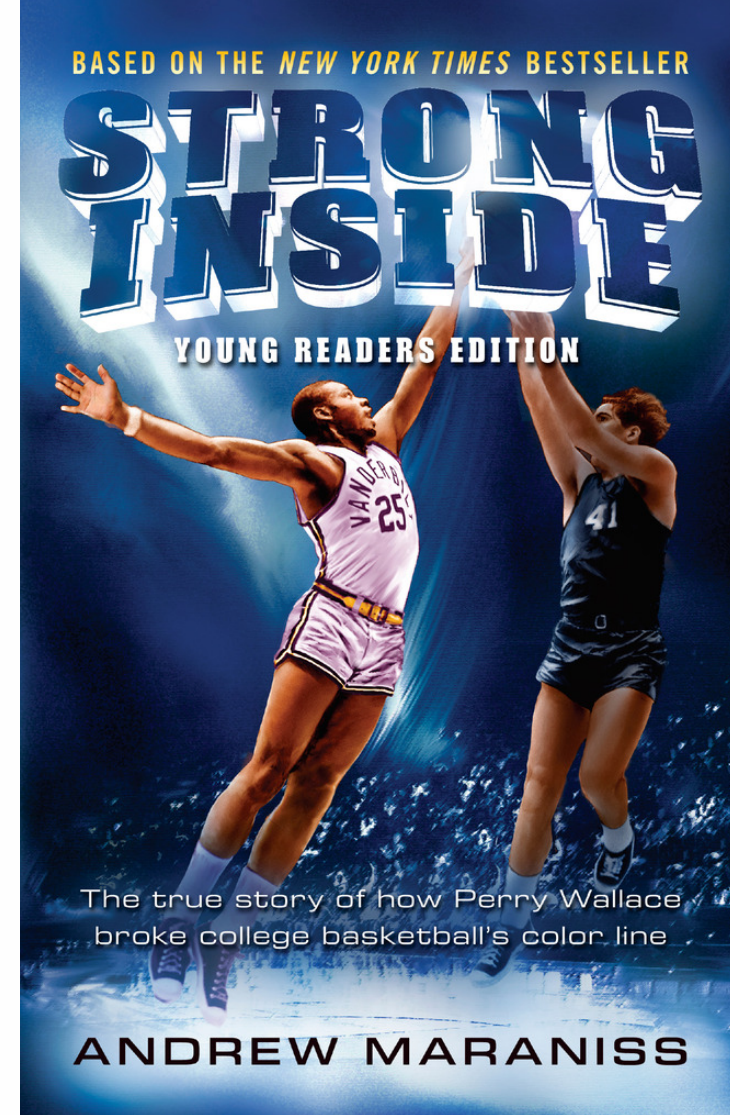


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PHILOMEL



Discussion Guide



ABOUT THE BOOK

STRONG INSIDE is the biography of Perry Wallace, the first African American basketball player in the Southeastern Conference. More than a typical sports book, this middle grade adaptation of an award-winning, New York Times bestseller places Wallace's pioneering journey into the context of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. This is fast-paced, thrilling and educational non-fiction for young readers at its finest. The 'adult' version became the first sports-related book ever to win both an RFK Book Award and Lillian Smith Book Award.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew Maraniss is a New York Times bestselling author of non-fiction for adults and young readers. Born in Madison, Wis., Andrew grew up in Washington, D.C. and Austin, Texas. He attended Vanderbilt University, where he majored in history. Andrew lives with his wife and two young children in Nashville, Tennessee. Visit www.andrewmaraniss.com and follow Andrew on Twitter @trublu24.

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FOR DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

- Consider the cover of *Strong Inside*. In what ways is the cover imagery symbolic for the events that transpire throughout the course of the book?
- Explain the significance of the title *Strong Inside*. What does it mean to you?
- Using examples from the book, what are some specific episodes where Perry Wallace displayed inner strength and courage?
- Perry Wallace exhibits many acts of bravery throughout his life. What do you consider to be his most courageous act, and why?
- What was significant about Perry Wallace's family life as he grew up? How did his upbringing prepare him for what was to follow?
- Why was Pearl High School considered such an important part of the community in North Nashville?
- What kind of environment did Perry Wallace encounter when he entered Vanderbilt University? What challenges did he face and how did he overcome them?

- Perry Wallace says that people can be treated by others in one of three ways: treated well, treated poorly, or not treated at all (e.g., ignored, isolated). Give examples of how he experienced all three types of treatment in his life.
- At the end of Ch. 17, Perry Wallace says "this is when I became a real pioneer." What did he mean by that?
- On page 160, the photo of Wallace lifting up an opposing player could be considered incredibly symbolic. Why?
- Why does Perry Wallace say the people who threatened him were not living up to their ideals?' (pg 167/168)
- Why was the Raven episode so controversial? How do you explain how people viewed it so differently?
- The day after his final game at Vanderbilt, Wallace gives an interview to *The Tennessean*. Why was this a courageous decision?
- Another key character in this book is Godfrey Dillard. Explain how his experience differed from Wallace's.
- The "author's note" chapter discusses what happened to Wallace after college. Did his life turn out the way you expected? What surprised you?