



Two Foot Punch

Anita Daher

Reading level: 3.2

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AR Quiz # 119138

Book Summary

Nikki blames her brother, Derek, for their parents' death in a house fire, but when Derek gets involved with a gang, Nikki knows she is the only one who can save him. Enlisting the help of a girl named Rain, who uses her athletic abilities to carry out acts of petty thievery, Nikki uses all her gymnastic and free-running skills to stay ahead of the gang and keep her brother from being killed.

Prereading Ideas

- Tragedy affects different people different ways. Ask students whether they can think of examples of this; for instance, Oprah Winfrey grew up poor and abused but she has become hugely successful. Others in similar circumstances are still living lives of poverty and despair. Is there a right or wrong way to respond to painful life events?
- What are some examples of using the power of money for good? For evil?
- If someone needs your help but doesn't want it, should you leave them alone?

Connecting to the Text

Setting

- The setting of *Two Foot Punch* is crucial to the plot. Ask students to write a brief explanation of why they think this is true or false.
- The descriptions of landmarks in Winnipeg are very vivid. Get students to create a short piece that would promote tourism to Winnipeg for people their age, using the places mentioned in *Two Foot Punch*.

Vocabulary

Match each parkour term with its meaning:

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|---------------------|---|
| 1. Tic-tac | a) Static or moving jump from one object to a spot on another object. |
| 2. Vault | b) A parkour athlete |
| 3. Wall-flip | c) A jump to vertical or near vertical object where your feet absorb the impact before your hands catch the top. |
| 4. Two foot punch | d) Done off a wall to change direction or to clear an object that couldn't be cleared from the ground. |
| 5. Traceur/traceuse | e) A way to pass over an object where both hands are placed on the object and it is approached straight on. |
| 6. Cat-leap | f) Approaching a vertical face, taking one or more steps up the wall, pushing off into a back flip, and landing. |
| 7. Precisioning | g) Sprint towards obstacle, take a large hop off one foot, then land on both feet together before diving into a vault |

Answers: 1d, 2e, 3f, 4g, 5b, 6c, 7a

Theme

- One of the themes of *Two Foot Punch* is the importance of forgiveness. Who does Nikki need to forgive and why? How would it change the book if she couldn't forgive?
- Another theme is trust and how relationships fail without it. Nikki has to trust Rain, even though she thinks Rain is untrustworthy. What effect does this have on Rain?

Connecting to the Curriculum

Law

- Derek tells Nikki it's legal for an eighteen-year-old to drink alcohol in Manitoba. Ask students to see if they can find out why the legal drinking age varies from province to province in Canada and why the legal drinking age is the same in all American states.
- Have students debate the pros and cons of raising the legal drinking age (in Canada) to lowering it (in the US).
- "Graffiti is revolutionary, in my opinion," says artist Terrence Lindall, "and any revolution might be considered a crime. People who are oppressed or suppressed need an outlet, so they write on walls—it's free." Have students look at the work of Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring as well as other anonymous graffiti artists, and then discuss what is vandalism and what is art.

Computer Science

The plot of *Two Foot Punch* relies very heavily on the use of technology. How does GPS work? Would Nikki and Rain have been able to save Derek without the use of technology?

Business

Spinner says that "cash flow is good for a neighborhood" and that his grow-ops are revitalizing the downtown core of Winnipeg. Could there be any truth to his statement? How can businesses be part of legitimately revitalizing a neighborhood?

History

- The name Winnipeg, which means muddy water in Cree, was first used in 1866. Ask students to find out what the town was called before that and who settled there.
- What is the significance of the Red River Rebellion?
- Winnipeg is at the longitudinal center of North America. What are its coordinates?
- How many major floods have occurred in Winnipeg? How is flooding controlled?

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. What recent movies have featured parkour?
2. Ask students to consider whether they use parkour or freerunning moves in their daily life. For example—a somersault, a handstand, jumping over an obstacle.
3. Nikki says, “There’s a fine line between parkour and trespassing.” When does parkour become trespassing?
4. Is it ever a good idea to take the law into your own hands?

Resources***Parkour***

<http://parkourpedia.com>
www.urbanfreeflow.com
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parkour>

Winnipeg

www.winnipeg.ca/clerks/docs/pathways/PWYHistory1874.stm
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winnipeg>

Law

www2.potsdam.edu/hansondj/LegalDrinkingAge.html
<http://safety-council.org/news/archives/should-we-raise-the-drinking-age-to-21>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graffiti>
www.graffitihurts.org/community_resources/working_with_police.cfm
www.cbc.ca/canada/calgary/story/2009/08/23/calgary-shaw-millennium-park-legal-graffiti.html

Author Biography

Anita Daher has written many books for children and teens, including numerous titles in the Orca Young Readers series. Anita lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, with her husband, two daughters, one basset hound and a Westfalia camper named Mae.

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