



Titan Clash

Sigmund Brouwer

Reading level: 2.4

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AR Quiz # 40668

orca sports

Book Summary

Jack's dad is tough on him, but he has learned to live with it. For the most part, he has it pretty good. Jack is a star player on his high school basketball team with everything going for him—scoring records, popularity and an easy path to a college scholarship. Almost as fast as the crash that put his mom in the hospital, everything Jack believes in starts to crumble. His only hope is to discover what's really going on, and quickly. If he doesn't, Jack may lose much more than a basketball career.

Prereading Ideas

- It's very easy to jump to conclusions about someone based on gossip or half-truths. If it's true that there are two sides to every story, how do you make sure that you don't let other people lead you to the wrong judgment about a situation?
- How does it affect a child when a parent is critical and unable to express emotions?

Connecting to the Text***Language***

The author of *Titan Clash* uses similes to make his writing more vivid. Find examples of some of the similes in the book and then finish the following sentences, trying to avoid using clichés:

- His head was as bald as...
- The realization of what I had done hit me like...
- She looked as delicious as...
- The smell in the locker room was like...
- The trombone solo sounded like...

Title

- Does the title *Titan Clash* suit the book? Ask students to write a brief paragraph defending their point of view.
- Who were the Titans in Greek mythology? How many were there? What was the original Titan Clash?
- Have the students choose a Titan and write a brief paragraph describing who they are and where they fit in the pantheon of Greek gods.

Plot

What information do you learn in the first two chapters of *Titan Clash*? How important is that information to the plot of the book? Would the book make sense without those chapters?

Connecting to the Curriculum***Literature***

- Jack's friend is named Tom Sawyer, like the character in Mark Twain's novel of the same name. In what way is Jack's friend like the Mark Twain character? Is Jack at all like Tom's friend Huckleberry Finn?
- Jack gets an anonymous phone call from someone who quotes the Bible (ch.9). What part of the Bible is the quote from and how is it relevant to the story?

Law

- The law says we are innocent until proven guilty, but the “court of public opinion” often judges a person before there is a trial. Ask students whether they have ever made up their mind about a person’s guilt or innocence before all the facts were known.
- Jack describes the jail his dad is in as “a place of no hope.” Have students research how many people are in jail in their country and how many of them are habitual re-offenders. What, if anything, is being done to reform the prison system and give hope to prisoners?

Philosophy/Religion

Jack asks a lot of questions in *Titan Clash*. What ethical issues does he struggle with? What answers does he discover? Who helps him?

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. Jack’s dad tells Jack that being a man means acting like a man and standing on your own (ch.8). Ask students to discuss whether this is a good definition of being a man or whether it’s a gender stereotype. Then ask them if standing on your own as a man means you have to be critical and emotionally distant (ch.18).
2. Is it true that “anytime you understand a person, it’s a lot easier to be friends” (ch.9)?
3. If someone you love and trust was accused of something terrible, how would you deal with it? What if all the evidence pointed to their guilt?
4. Can a nickname that starts as an insult become a term of affection?

Resources***Title***

http://n.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_%28mythology%29

Law

www.prisonreform.org

Literature

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Adventures_of_Tom_Sawyer

Author Biography

Sigmund Brouwer is the bestselling author of many books for children and teens. He has contributed numerous titles to the Orca Currents series, the Orca Echoes series and the Orca Sports series. He and his family live in Red Deer, Alberta, and Eagleville, Tennessee.

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