



Razor's Edge

Nikki Tate

Reading level: 3.1

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AR Quiz # 133963

Book Summary

Travis and his best friends, Ryan and Jasper, live for the thrill of watching their horses race. When a thief starts hacking off the tails of Standardbred horses stabled at Blackdown Park, suddenly the track isn't such a great place to hang out. Things get even more unpleasant when a troubled girl threatens to ruin everything the three boys have worked so hard to achieve. Travis has to make some tough choices, but how can he stand by his friends when he no longer trusts them?

Prereading Ideas

- What is the difference between a Standardbred horse and a Thoroughbred horse?
- What kinds of jobs can a teenager do at a racetrack?
- Betting on horses has its own rules and regulations. What are they? Is online betting safe? Is organized crime involved in racetrack betting?

Connecting to the Text***Vocabulary***

Horeseracing has its own unique vocabulary. Have students define the following words and identify which words have multiple meanings:

Sulky	Filly	Dressage	Tack	Mucking
Hock	Lines	Crossties	Halter	Paddock
Stall	Gait	Hopples		

Theme

One of the major themes of *Razor's Edge* is loyalty. Ask students to write two brief opinion pieces, one about loyalty as a positive force, one about it as a negative force.

Point of View

Razor's Edge is written from Travis's point of view. Ask students to choose a scene and rewrite it from a different character's point of view.

Connecting to the Curriculum***Business***

- Travis and his friends run a small business. Divide students into small groups and have them create a business plan for a small business they would like to run. Then have one student from each group make a presentation to the class, as if their classmates were potential investors.
- How do the makers of instrument bows get hair for their bows? How is this connected to the trade in horse meat?

Science

Sassy has to take her cat to the vet because it has eaten chocolate. Get students to research what other human foods are poisonous to animals.

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. Jasper says, "Keeping your mouth shut is nearly as bad as saying ignorant stuff yourself." Have students discuss whether they think this is true; ask them to come up with examples to support their views.
2. What can or should a friend do when he/she sees someone getting involved in an unhealthy relationship?
3. Sassy makes racist remarks about Jasper to Travis. How could he have handled it better?

Resources

Small Business

www.tenonline.org/sref/jg1.html

Bows

www.vannbows.com

Horses

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

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thoroughbred>

www.horse-smart.com/definitions.htm

<http://horseracing.about.com/od/helpfornewfans/a/aaquickbets.htm>

Toxic Foods

www.wisegeek.com/which-foods-are-toxic-to-cats-and-dogs.htm

Author Biography

Nikki Tate has written many books for children and young adults in a variety of genres. She shares her home on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, with a collection of goats, ponies, dogs, cats and assorted feathered friends.

Author Website

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