



Winter Hawk Star

Sigmund Brouwer

Reading level: 3.8

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AR Quiz # 34964

Book Summary

Tyler is a good, solid hockey player, but not a great one. That honor belongs to the obnoxious Riley, a sixteen-year-old spoiled superstar who makes Tyler's life miserable. When Tyler and Riley are sent to volunteer at a local youth program, Tyler uncovers a sinister plan by an unscrupulous drug company to exploit needy kids and their families. In the process he finds the passion and commitment he needs to step up his game on ice—and off.

Prereading Ideas

- Sometimes people who are really good at something can be pretty arrogant about it. But often even the most arrogant people are often hiding some insecurities. Ask students to think about the most obnoxious person they know and consider whether anything about them is likeable.
- Is it true that the only way to get anywhere in life is by taking risks?
- Recent research has shown that kids raised by a single parent in a stable home are no more likely to experience problems growing up than their counterparts with two parents. Ask students to discuss why it's still widely believed that it's always better to have two parents.

Connecting to the Text

Plot/Character

1. Answer the following questions:
 - Why are Tyler and Riley sent to volunteer at Youth Works
 - Whose brother is kidnapped and why?
 - How do Riley, Sam and Tyler end up in the trunk of a Cadillac?
 - Who drugged the Kool-Aid and why?
2. One of the ways to create tension in a plot is to throw together two characters who are very different. Ask students to write a brief paragraph describing the effect Riley has on Tyler and viceversa. How do their differences help to create an exciting plot?
3. Tyler isn't ambitious. He likes having no pressure and nothing to fear. He likes being invisible. How does the author keep him from being a dull character?
4. Have students write the book's first scene from Riley's point of view and in his voice. What does he think of Tyler? How would the story be different if Riley was the narrator?
5. Stereotypes weaken novels. In *Winter Hawk Star*, the author talks about stereotypes: the big, dumb hockey player (ch.9) and the negligent single mother (ch.11). How does he avoid turning his characters into stereotypes?

Connecting to the Curriculum

Psychology

- ADD/ADHD is a serious problem for some people. How is it diagnosed and treated? Does everyone agree on how it should be treated? What happens if it goes untreated?
- Tyler notices that Sam blinks when she lies. Does everybody have a "tell"?
- Tyler's coach asks him where his inner fire is. Is there a difference in the psychological makeup of a good athlete and an elite athlete? Can a good athlete learn to become an elite athlete or is it something you're born with?
- What kind of state do athlete's refer to as being "in the zone"? Is it simply a state of super-concentration and focus or is it something else?

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever become friends with someone that you initially disliked? What had to happen to make friendship possible?
2. Would you quit doing something you loved if you couldn't be the very best at it?
3. Can you succeed at anything if you want to badly enough?
4. Have you ever been treated as a stereotype? For example, dumb blond, stupid jock, nasty rich girl, violent head-banger, anti-social geek, etc. How did it make you feel?

Resources

Stereotypes

www.associatedcontent.com/article/276956/high_school_stereotypes_explained_pg2_pg2.html?cat=25
<http://remember.org/guide/History.root.stereotypes.html>

Psychology

www.caddac.ca/cms/page.php?2
www.add-adhd-infoplus.com
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0846/is_2_23/ai_108112339
www.mindtools.com/page11.html

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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