

BUSTED

TEACHER GUIDE



Jonah inadvertently records a video of two of his hockey teammates play fighting. When one of them is seriously hurt, Jonah is conflicted about what to do.

THEMES

Hockey Culture | Bullying | Fighting | Violence | Teammate Loyalty | Mental Health

PRE-READING IDEAS

Ask students to think about the term “hockey culture,” and to consider the teams and individual players they admire. Why do these athletes stand out? Do they conform to stereotypical hockey culture norms?

Can hockey culture go wrong? For example, the pressure to perform just like the pros is intense in any sport, but young athletes can injure themselves or others if they push beyond their level of skill development or focus on the physical and sometimes violent aspect of the sport.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jonah says that everyone knows Drake plays a rough, tough and sometimes violent style of hockey. How do you think Jonah feels about his teammate’s playing style?
2. When Coach returns to the dressing room and finds Carter injured, he asks what happened. Carter says he fell and doesn’t say anything about fighting with Drake. No one else speaks up to tell Coach what really happened. What are your thoughts on this situation? Why do you think no one speaks up? What would you do if you were a player in that dressing room?
3. Jonah and his twin sister Liv have a close relationship, but she gets him in trouble with Drake when she shares the video of the fight. Why do you think she does this?
4. Jonah and his father are watching an NHL game on TV, and the game is rough, with fights breaking out. How much do you think young hockey players (or athletes in other sports) are influenced by what they see from the behavior of professional athletes? What are the pros and cons of this influence?



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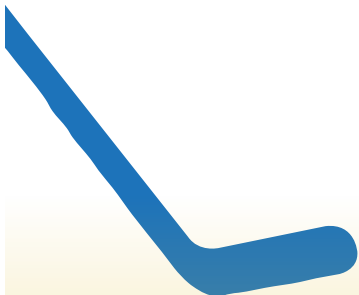


5. At school, the day after the video is shared, Drake catches Jonah at his locker and threatens him, both verbally and physically. Jonah can see that Drake is “running scared” and doesn’t know if he should tell someone. What would you do in this situation, and why?
6. After he’s benched by the coach for being too rough on the ice, Drake admits to Jonah that he’s “so tired.” Why is Drake so tired? What’s he tired of? And why is it so important for Drake to admit this to Jonah?
7. Jonah says his twin sister Liv is “smart” at school, but also “smart in other ways too.” What do you think he means by this? Do you know people who have “smarts” like Liv? How do they demonstrate their “smarts”?
8. In the final chapter, Drake tells Jonah that sometimes he needs to be reminded of “what I’m doing right” and “what I’m doing wrong.” What do you think is next for Drake in his hockey career? Do you think he can change?
9. Imagine you are worried about a friend who is struggling with something in their life (e.g. a family situation, pressure to perform well at school or activities, friend trouble, etc.). What would you do to help?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jean Mills has been writing since childhood and professionally for over thirty years. Her essays, reviews, features and children’s stories have appeared in publications across Canada. She is the author of a number of books for young people, including *Skating Over Thin Ice*, *Larkin on the Shore* and *The Legend*. Her love of hockey inspired her Orca Soundings title *Wingman*. A former college communications professor, Jean loves using her own experiences as an athlete, musician and teacher in her writing. Jean lives in Guelph, Ontario.



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