



## **All-Star Pride**

Sigmund Brouwer

Reading level: 3.8

978-1-55143-635-7 PB

AR Quiz # 34966

### **Book Summary**

The all-star team, made up of the WHL's young hockey players, is one short step away from the NHL. Their goal is to beat the Russian all-stars in a best-of-seven series to be shown as a television special. Hog Burnell, one of the biggest and toughest players in the league, is happy to be part of it. He could use the money that would come with a series win by the WHL all-stars. At the very worst, it's a free vacation to Russia. It doesn't take Hog long to discover there's plenty more money to be made along the way...if he's willing to pay the price for it.

### **Prereading Ideas**

- Sometimes a person wants something so much, it doesn't matter to them how they get it. Is it right to do something bad to accomplish something good? Does the end ever justify the means?
- The expression "Money is the root of all evil" is actually a misquote from the Bible. The actual quote is "The love of money is the root of all evil." What is the difference? Why is it important to use the correct quotation?

**Connecting to the Text***Plot*

- Writers use three main techniques to advance the plot of a novel: exposition (the author tells the reader what's going on) and dialogue (characters talk about what's going on) and action (which shows what is happening). Have students choose passages from *All-Star Pride* that advance the plot in one of these three ways; then get them to rewrite the scene using one of the other methods. For example, rewrite some dialogue as exposition, exposition as action, etc.
- Make a graph of the plot of *All-Star Pride* giving page references for where the action rises, climaxes, falls and concludes.

*Character*

- Hog, the narrator of *All-Star Pride*, describes himself as poor, proud and polite. Find examples in the story of each of these traits. What other character traits does he exhibit? Find examples of these and write a short description of him.
- Show not tell. Hog tells us what Chandler and Nadia look like, but it is their behavior that reveals who they really are. Write brief character studies of Chandler and Nadia based on what their behavior “shows” the reader.

**Connecting to the Curriculum***History*

- Hog's team travels to a Russia that has changed since the breakup of the Soviet Union. The world he describes is one of hunger, poverty and mistrust. Is this an accurate portrayal of life in Russia in the twenty-first century? Have students research modern-day Russia and write a brief story imagining what life must be like for Russian teenagers.
- Hog's father hates Russians and calls them “Commies.” What do Communists believe in? Who are/were their leaders? Why did many Americans hate and fear them? What kind of government has replaced communism in Russia?
- The Nazis looted many European works of art during World War II; after WW II, the Soviet Union and the United States looted Germany. Some works of art were returned to their rightful owners (repatriation), others made their way into the black market. Have students research the controversy surrounding the repatriation of looted art and write brief paragraphs in support of or against the practice.

***Economics***

According to Chandler, “Inflation is killing this country [Russia].” How can a country be “killed” by inflation? Use an inflation calculator to see out what has happened to inflation in your own country. For instance, in Canada, it would now take over \$700 to buy what cost \$100 in 1960.

***Social Studies***

Russian hockey fans whistle instead of boo. Have students research cultural differences and write a short scene where two characters misunderstand each other because they use hand gestures rather than words to communicate.

**Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions**

1. Hog has a volatile temper. Does it help or hinder him?
2. After realizing that he couldn't trust Nadia, why does Hog try to save her?
3. Hog's size and strength are used to intimidate the other team. Is this common in other sports besides hockey?
4. Is there anything real about reality TV?
5. Is there ever such a thing as getting something for nothing?
6. Is it all right for someone as big and strong as Hog to use threats of violence?
7. Should hockey violence be banned?

**Author's Notes**

The Western Hockey League is one of the major junior ice-hockey leagues which constitute the Canadian Hockey League. It was founded in 1966 as the Western Canada Junior Hockey League, and then Western Canada Hockey League. In 1978, it became known as the Western Hockey League. The league is often referred to as the “dub.”

Teams are located throughout western Canada and the northwestern US.

## **Resources**

### *History*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Looted\\_art](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Looted_art)

[http://encarta.msn.com/sidebar\\_761594938/art\\_theft\\_and\\_forgery.html](http://encarta.msn.com/sidebar_761594938/art_theft_and_forgery.html)

### *Economics*

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

[www.bankofcanada.ca/en/rates/inflation\\_calc.html](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/rates/inflation_calc.html)

### *Social Studies*

[www.culturalsavvy.com/index.htm](http://www.culturalsavvy.com/index.htm)

<http://international.ouc.bc.ca/cultureshock>

## **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.

## **Author Website**

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