



Tiger Threat Sigmund Brouwer

Reading level: 2.4
978-1-55143-639-5 PB
AR Quiz # 110756

Book Summary

Ray Hockaday plays center for the Medicine Hat Tigers in the Western Hockey League. He's spent his hockey career hiding something from the world. When his new Russian roommate shows up, Ray is assigned to help Vlad get used to life in Canada. What Ray doesn't know is that Vlad is hiding something that could get them and the rest of their team killed. Ray, the son of a famous NHL tough guy, finds out that there are much scarier things than a hockey brawl.

Prereading Ideas

- Many hockey players from Europe and Russia come to North America to play. Have students research what kind of travel visa or work permit is required to play in the WHL or a comparable league.
- Have students answer the question: What would be the hardest part about coming to a new country?
- Fans are divided on the subject of hockey violence. Have students debate the issues before they read *Tiger Threat*.

Connecting to the Text***Plot***

- Have students write a one-sentence summary of each chapter. Then have them put their summaries together and see if the story makes sense.
- The plot of *Tiger Threat* involves the Russian mafia, a lot of money and some nasty dentistry. Have students write a short paragraph discussing whether the plot is realistic or far-fetched.
- The ending of *Tiger Threat* wraps up a lot of loose ends. Have students write two alternate endings, one open-ended and one that resolves the plot in a new way.

Character

- Is Amanda an important character? Ask students to rewrite their plot summary (above) without Amanda. Would the plot still work?
- Ray is afraid to get into fights on the ice. Does that make him more or less sympathetic character. How has he changed by the end of the book? Is the change for the better?

Connecting to the Curriculum***Language***

At first, Vlad appears not to be able to speak English. He pretends to learn by watching cartoons. Ask students to find the answers to these questions:

- At what age is it easiest to learn a new language?
- How is learning a second language different from learning a first?
- What is chunking theory?
- At what developmental stage does a baby begin to recognize the sound and speech patterns of its mother's voice?
- Who is Noam Chomsky and what is his theory of language acquisition?

Geography

- Vlad and Ray set up a meeting with the Russian mobster at the Saamis Teepee, the world's largest teepee. What is the significance of the teepee? Why was it relocated from Calgary to Medicine Hat?
- What does the name Medicine Hat mean? What other place names have similar origins?
- Have students research "big things" in their country and plan a road trip to visit at least five monuments. The road trip should take one week or less.

Science/Psychology

- Ray's dentist tells Ray to focus on the pain and welcome it so that it won't hurt as much. Ask students to research whether this is a medically recommended way of coping with pain.
- Pain is classified as acute or chronic. Which kind does Ray experience? Are there different methods for managing the different kinds of pain?
- Many pregnant women learn breathing techniques (Lamaze) to cope with the pain of childbirth. Why does it work? Does the Lamaze technique help with other kinds of pain?

History

- Ray runs afoul of the Russian mafia in *Tiger Threat*. Have students research the history of the Russian mafia and its growth into other countries. What are the mob's main sources of income?
- Compare the history of the Russian mafia with the more well-known Italian mafia. What North American cities have the biggest problems with mob influence? What other countries have their own distinct mob culture?

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. Vlad is having a hard time adapting to life in a new country. What does Ray do to make his transition easier?

Resources***Hockey Violence***

www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=M1ARTM0012139

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

www.thestar.com/comment/columnists/article/594510

Language Acquisition

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

www.timothyjpmason.com/WebPages/LangTeach/Licence/CM/OldLectures/L1_Introduction.htm

Geography

www.bigthings.ca

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Take-a-Tour-of-The-USAs-best-Worlds-Largest-Landmarks&id=531946>

www.worldslargestdoc.com

Science

www.healthpsychology.net/Pain_Management.htm

History

www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1u2PrPqdUc

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

<http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mafia>

Author Biography

Sigmund Brouwer is the bestselling author of many books for children and young adults. He has contributed to the Orca Currents series (*Wired*, *Sewer Rats*) and the Orca Sports series (most recently *Winter Hawk Star*, *Hurricane Power* and *Hitmen Triumph*). He and his family live in Red Deer, Alberta, and Eagleville, Tennessee.

Author Website

www.coolreading.com