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Section 1: Chapters 1–8

Quiz Time

Answer the following questions about Chapters 1-8.

1. How does Crash get his nickname?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

2. How do Crash and Penn Webb meet?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

3. Who tells Penn Crash’s real name? Why is Crash mad?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

4. Why can’t Penn have a water gun fight with Crash?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

5. What surprises Crash about the race between him and Penn? Why?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

6. What is Penn’s family like?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

7. Why can’t Crash’s father take him to the Phillies game?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

8. How is Mike DeLuca different from Penn?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
Paper Dolls

In the first section of the novel, you learn a great deal about Crash and Penn. They are very different characters, with particular hobbies and philosophies. Make life-sized models of Crash and Penn, using what you know about each character to bring your paper doll to life.

Materials

- index cards
- paper
- large sheets of butcher paper, at least 5" (1.5 m) long
- pencils
- yarn
- paper bags
- string, ribbon
- glue, stapler, staples, scissors
- markers, paints, crayons, and colored pencils
- buttons

Directions

1. Form groups of four students.

2. Review section one of Crash. Identify important characteristics which define either Crash or Penn. List your chosen character’s traits on an index card.

3. Now, sketch the character and discuss how he should be pictured.

4. Make a list of items necessary to construct a model of your character.

5. Trace a life-sized model of either Crash or Penn on butcher paper. (You may want to use one person in your group as a model.) Cut out and dress your model. Add a face, hair, and other defining characteristics. For instance, Penn always wears a button on his shirt, and Crash wears sports attire.

6. Share your model with the class, explaining your character’s physical and emotional traits.

Teacher Note: Models can be kept on display throughout the reading of this novel. You may encourage students to add or subtract items from these models as they read and gather more information about each character.
Fun with Football

Played by professionals and amateurs, American football is a wildly popular sport, attracting thousands of participants and millions of spectators annually. People all across the country watch the Super Bowl every January, and many junior high and high schools have amateur football teams.

The ancient Greeks used to play *harpaston*—a game similar to American football. In this game, there was no limit to the number of players. The object was to move a ball across a goal line by kicking, throwing, or running with it. Classical literature contains detailed accounts of the game, including descriptions of ferocious tackling.

American football developed in the United States in the 19th century as a combination of soccer and rugby. Interestingly, what many Americans call soccer is actually called football in other countries.

Crash and Mike DeLuca love to play football. Crash hopes to score more touchdowns than any player on his team. He may be good at sports, but he is not very good at resolving conflicts between himself and other people. Crash might benefit from creating his own personal playbook—a chart showing the process involved in carrying out various offensive and defensive plays in the game of football.

Materials

- lined paper
- pencils
- a three-ring notebook

Directions

1. Get into groups of four. Assign one person to be the writer. Then, select a scene from *Crash* that depicts conflict.
2. Assign students a role in the scene. Practice acting out that scene.
3. Discuss how the conflict may be solved. Think about how each character could react, and what he/she could say in order to avoid conflict. Chart your suggestions down on a piece of paper, following the model, below. Act out your new, improved scene.
4. Now, act out the original scene for your class. Read your suggestions for solving the conflict.
5. Finally, act out the new scene, demonstrating how the characters work to resolve their conflicts.
6. Collect each group’s page and create a “Conflict Resolution Playbook” for your classroom.

**Crash’s Conflict-Resolution Playbook**

**Crash and the Water Gun**

Crash tries to get Penn to play with water guns.  
Penn says he’s not allowed to play with guns.  
Crash asks for an explanation, politely.  
Penn explains that he’s a Quaker.

Rather than making fun of Penn, Crash suggests that they play a game of tag, instead.
Substituting Synonyms

Crash learns many new and interesting concepts throughout the novel. Likewise, the book is full of new and exciting vocabulary words. The activity below will help you understand words which appear in Section 1.

Synonyms are two or more words that have the same meaning. For instance, a synonym for dog is canine, and a synonym for flower is blossom. Using what you’ve learned about the vocabulary words in Section 1, rewrite each sentence below. Substitute a vocabulary word from the box as a synonym for each bolded word or phrase.

### Synonyms
- pestering
- vegetarian
- scrawny
- bamboozled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>consume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>glum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>misery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Penn Webb wears a button on his ______________________ chest.
   (skinny)

2. A Quaker is someone who does not believe in ______________________.
   (fighting)

3. Crash feels ______________________ when Penn almost beats him in a race.
   (tricked)

4. Penn looks ______________________ after Crash says he won’t go to his house for dinner.
   (sad)

5. Penn is a ________________________.
   (person who does not eat meat)

6. The Webbs believe people should not ______________________ animals.
   (eat)

7. Crash appears to be in ______________________ after he bites into the oatburger.
   (despair)

8. In third grade, Penn stops ______________________ Crash to go places with him.
   (harassing)