

GAME FACE

About the book:

Thirteen-year-old Jonah has big hockey dreams, a best friend, and a plan to prove he's *not* like his anxiety-controlled dad. But when his friend suffers a medical crisis during an important game, Jonah's own anxiety ramps up, threatening to ruin *everything*.

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection.

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About the author:

Shari Green is an award-winning author of novels in verse. She's also a hockey fan, musician, and former nurse. Shari loves being out in nature and can often be found wandering the beaches or forest trails near her home on Vancouver Island, BC.

Discussion Topics and Suggested Activities:

Friendship and Teamwork:

- In what ways are Jonah and Tyrel good friends to each other? What challenges do they face in their friendship?
- If the characters in GAME FACE were each given awards, what would those awards be? Why would they deserve them?
- Jonah's hockey team has both positive and negative experiences together, on and off the ice. List some of those experiences. When have you been part of a team? What were the best things about that experience? Was there a downside? If so, how could you contribute to making a better team experience?
- Who's on Jonah's real-life team? (Who's got his back when things in life are tough?) Think about who's on *your* team, and who can count on *you*.

Anxiety:

- Have you ever felt anxious or worried like Jonah does? What were those feelings like for you?
- How is an anxiety disorder different from occasional worries?
- What techniques did Ms. Rogers share with Jonah for helping manage his anxiety?
- Discuss how you could be a good friend to a person with anxiety.

Poetry:

Much of GAME FACE is told in a style of poetry called *free verse*, which has no set rules for rhyme or meter. However, at times the author uses specific poetry forms (eg. for the “Monday Poems”), which set those poems apart and/or add an extra layer of impact or meaning.

- Read the shape poem on page 114. How does the arrangement of the words add to the poem?
- How do you feel about watching or playing hockey? Love it? Or not so much? Does it make you feel excited? Tense? Bored? Create an acrostic or free verse poem that shows your thoughts or feelings about hockey.

More activities:

- Work in a small group to record a podcast or video about the book. Be sure to include the title, author, and opinions about the story.
- Write a diary entry from Rose’s point of view about her relationship with Lola (her grandmother) and how it’s changing.
- Think about your favourite team sport or group activity. Design a team logo that symbolizes what you love most about it.

Resources:

For information about anxiety in children and youth:

[Anxiety and Depression Association of America](#)

[Canadian Mental Health Association](#)

[Child Mind Institute](#)

Help lines:

Canada

- Text 686868
- DM at kidshelpphone.ca

USA

- Text 741741
- DM/chat at crisistextline.org

More GAME FACE resources:

[book trailer](#)

[book cover](#) (illustration by Julien Castanié)

[list of poetry forms used](#)

More books from this author:

www.sharigreen.com