



ICE PRINCESS



Synopsis

Casey Carlyle has never quite fit in. Caught between her fantasy of becoming a championship figure skater and her strong-willed mother, who has her on the fast track to Harvard, she can only hope to be like Nikki, Tiffany and Gen - three elite skating prodigies who are ruthlessly competing on the US National circuit (and have attitudes to match).

Discussion Questions

- How were Gen's and Casey's moms similar? In what ways were they different? How do you think your parents would react if you wanted to quit something that they were very excited about?
- Gen's mother had a reputation for cheating. Do you think this hurt her career or helped it? Why? Do you know people at school who have a reputation for cheating? Do people avoid them or do they want to help them? Why do you think that is the case?
- Casey felt that she couldn't balance her skating schedule with a full-time schedule at Harvard. How do you feel about this? In her case was it more important to follow her dreams of skating? Are sports and education both so demanding that people can't give equal time to both? Are you in a sport? How do you balance both school and sports?
- Do you think that physics could play a role in making other sports better? What sports and how?



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Activities

- Each outfit the skaters wore had a theme. It usually matched the music they skated to and corresponded with the type of routine they danced. Design your dream routine and draw your costume. What would your costume look like? Remember that your outfit can go from the top of your head to your skates. What song would you skate to? Why?
- Catch an ice skating tournament on TV. What are some things that you notice now after watching the *Ice Princess* and learning about the physics of ice skating?
- Visit your local ice skating rink. Round up your friends and try your hand at some simple, or even more advanced, ice skating moves. Even if you aren't the best skater, you will have a ton of fun!

Get Involved

- Sports are expensive! Casey tries to sell her physics research and works at the rink to help pay for skating, but she still can't even afford new skates! There are many people out there who would love to play a sport but cannot afford it. Plan a sports equipment drive for kids like Casey who'd like the play but don't have the tennis racket, baseball glove or football cleats they need.
- Casey was working on her computer program to earn a scholarship so that she could afford to attend Harvard. Many kids can't afford to attend the colleges they would like without the help of scholarships. Join a group that raises money for a scholarship fund and help send a grateful student to college.



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