



Ghost

By Jason Reynolds



Ghost is a middle grade novel that follows seventh-grader Castle “Ghost” Cranshaw as he joins a track team and struggles to deal with his past and his present.

Think while you read...

- *“He said we showed promise. Well, that was something I have never heard before.”* (Ch. 8, pg. 125)
 - How do you think Ghost was feeling when he heard Coach say this?
 - What does Coach mean when he says “promise”?
- *“And it felt good to feel like one of the teammates. Like I was there—really there as me, but without as much of a scream inside.”* (Ch. 8, pg. 135)
 - Tell me more about what Ghost is starting to feel now that he is part of a team?
 - Describe in your own words what Ghost is trying to say about the “scream inside.”
 - Why is it important that Ghost trusts his teammates?



Talk

“You can’t run away from who you are, but what you can do is run toward who you want to be.” (Ch. 9, pg. 155)

- Why is Ghost trying to run from who he is?
- How does his perception of himself start to change after meeting Coach?
- How do his friendships with teammates help build his new perception of himself?
- How do you think Ghosts' first race finishes? Why?

Write

Be Someone’s Hero: Do you have someone like Coach who believes that you can do your best everyday? Who is your hero when you need them the most?

- Write a paragraph about a time in your life when someone made a difference and helped you out.
- Write a second paragraph explaining how you made a difference in someone else’s life.

Connect

Research two different cities/communities in Texas. Find out their average housing prices, crime rates, demographics (racial diversity, estimated population) and middle school performance. How are these the same and different for each community? Why do you think these metrics differ based on city/community?





Gold Medal for You!

Make your own gold medal!

Materials Needed: Ribbon or string, paper cut into a circles, colored pens or crayons, scissors

Imagine you found Coach's gold medal that was sold by his father.

- Cut out a circle from your gold paper and with your colored pens recreate and illustrate what the medal would look like to you.
- Write 3 inspirational words on the medal that best describe how Coach changed Ghost's life.
- Use a pen to make a hole at the top of the medal. Pull the string or ribbon through the hole.
- Display it the medal or keep it somewhere safe. Envision what it would be like to win a medal for your talent(s).
- Next, choose a family member or a friend that means a lot to you. Construct what their medal would look like. Write 3 words on their medal that best describes them. Present their medal to them!

