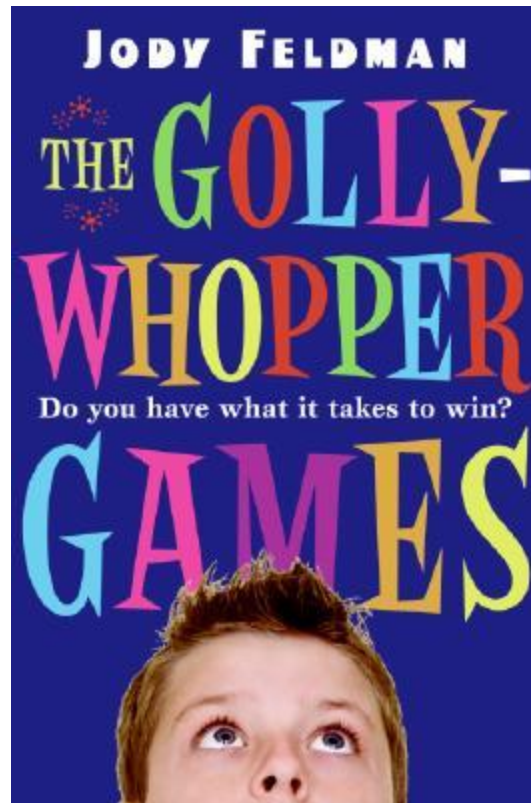


THE GOLLYWHOPPER GAMES by Jody Feldman (Greenwillow, 2008)

Gil Goodson is determined to win the Golly Toy and Game Company's ultimate competition. But the puzzles, games and stunts are only half the challenge: there's some complicated history with the Golly Company that drives the stakes even higher. A 2012 Nutmeg Nominee.



1. So, what are the Golly Whopper Games?
2. Gil's father has been unjustly accused of embezzling funds from the Golly Toy & Game Company. Even after his father is found not guilty Gil has been ostracized by classmates, even his friends. He has been shut out of playing sports, and is feeling lonely. He thinks if he wins the Gollywhopper Games his family will have enough money to move. Do you think moving out of town will solve his problems?
3. Cheating and cheaters is a theme that runs through this book, Gil's father is innocent, but Gil has to deal with two other cheaters – Rocky and Thorn. How did they cheat and who helped them (Thorn - hearing aide, Rocky – sign language)? Why do you think their fathers were willing to help their sons cheat? Why do you think Thorn and Rocky felt the need to cheat? How did Gil's father handle information during the games differently from Thorn and Rocky's fathers?
P. 84 Gil realizes that he has to do something about the cheaters when they become a team, or the organizers will find out and disqualify them. How does he handle the cheating? P. 116. Do you agree with the way he handled the cheating? Why or why not?
4. Five members make the semifinal team: Bianca LaBlanc (BetsiJo Hammermeister), Lavinia Plodder, Thornton (Thorn) Dewitt-Formey, Rocky Titus, and Gilbert (Gil) Goodson – they all have different abilities, What are the strengths and weaknesses of the team members? Did one of those traits help the team the most? Did one of those traits hurt the team the most? P. 118 Gil watches Rocky swagger in front, Gil was oddly glad he was here." Why was Gil glad Rocky was part of his team? P. 180 Thorn says "I wish I knew how to figure things out like you."
Which two characters would you most want on your team?

- 5 When Gil resolves the cheating issue, Bianca wants to elect him as their leader, but Gil says they don't need one. P. 117 "We just have to work together if we want to win." Even so, what leadership qualities did Gil demonstrate? How about his teammates? Do you think Bert Golliwop is a successful leader for the company? What about his father?
- 6 How was Gil able to solve the challenges? (Focus, slow down, think creatively and logically, and out of the box). Do you think Gil as a character changes by the end of the book? Why? Any examples? What are the life lessons that Gil learned by experiencing the Gollywhopper Games? Did any other character experience change or growth? How do you know? What evidence is there from the book to support your thinking?
- 7 What did you think of the actual games – a sort of virtual reality where family and other contestants were watching the participants. Were you able to solve any of the games, or puzzles along with Gil?

Several of the questions above were adapted from author Jody Feldman's exciting website: www.jodyfeldman.com/1edu.html Access it to learn more about the author, the book, and to play some exciting and challenging mind games.

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