

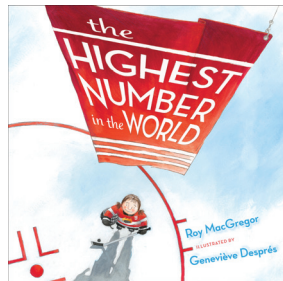


# CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

H. Diana Cruchleyv©2017, dianacruchley.com

## THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN THE WORLD



Gabe is a hockey player whose lucky number is 22, the same number as her hero, Hayley Wickenheiser. But her new jersey is #9. She is crushed.

Gabe's grandmother sets her straight that the #9 was the retired number of Rocket Richard, Gordie Howe, Bobby Hull etc. and that 99 was Gretsky's number. Gabe is reconciled, and dreams of her own retired # 9.

Roy MacGregor, Tundra Books, ©2014,  
978-1-77049-575-3

## EXTREME WRITING

A springboard from a picture book to personal writing should provide at least three topics if possible. Here are some ideas:

1. Any stories about sports you play.
2. Any stories about your grandmother.
3. Disappointment(s) you have had and how they turned out.

## HAYLEY WICKENHEISER

Gabe's hero is a female hockey player, Hayley Wickenheiser. Ask students to find out more about her as a person and an athlete.

## HOCKEY SONGS

Two hockey songs could be played while using this book:

- *The Hockey Song* by Jughead
- *The Hockey Song* by Stompin' Tom Connors

There are a few others, but these are kid friendly.

## RESEARCHING FAMOUS HOCKEY PLAYERS

The book mentions the famous hockey players who have had the number 9 and whose respective teams retired it. Those mentioned include: Rocket Richard, Gordie Howe, Teeter Kennedy, Bobby Hull, Andy Bathgate, Johnny Bucyk, and Lanny McDonald...as well as The Great Gretsky's #99. It's not important information, but it is still a good Rapid Research possibility to ask students to research the top 15 hockey players ever. I collected them from several sites claiming to list the "best ever":

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Wayne Gretsky  | 2. Rocket Richard  |
| 3. Gordie Howe    | 4. Bobby Hull      |
| 5. Andy Bathgate  | 6. Johnny Bucyk    |
| 7. Lanny McDonald | 8. Mario Lemieux   |
| 9. Joe Sakik      | 10. Bobby Orr      |
| 11. Jean Beliveau | 12. Guy LaFleur    |
| 13. Patrick Roy   | 14. Steve Yzerman  |
| 15. Ken Dryden    | 16. Teeter Kennedy |

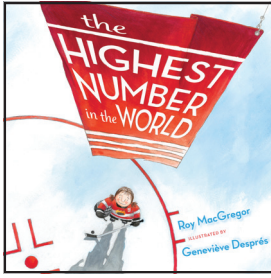
First students pose inquiry questions: What are they famous for? Why was their number retired? How does it happen - does the team vote? etc. Each team of 2 students must collect 2 images, and a list of 20 facts/stories about their player. They work together to create a poster, writing an "essay" using their facts and an image, or they contribute a few pages of PowerPoint which they jointly present.

Personally, I like topics that expand cultural, historic, scientific, or artistic knowledge. But, this still does teach research and speaking skills. You will have to

## HOCKEY EXPRESSIONS

Four expressions from hockey (at least) have made their way into common language in Canada. Give them to students and ask the to discuss what they think they mean and when they would be used.

1. My favourite: ***Pull the goalie. No fear.*** This was on a Nike ad I think, but I love the concept that when your back is to the wall in life, and you could lose the whole thing, just commit your total energy, fearlessly, with no fall back position.
2. Red Green's favourite: ***Keep your stick on the ice*** which means play fair, but also don't lose your temper.
3. ***Power play*** means to take advantage of your advantage.
4. ***Deke out*** is when a player tricks another player by pretending to shoot one way, when he intends to shoot another way. It is used to refer to deceiving someone. But it can also be used in sentences such as, "*On the way home, I'm going to deke into the grocery store*" - meaning a quick unpredictable detour.



## THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN THE WORLD, CONT.

### HOCKEY VOCABULARY

**Z is for Zamboni** is an ABC book of hockey terms which makes a great model for students writing their own ABC book because the paragraphs are about the correct length (150 words) to emulate.

You could also use their list - there are more words at the back, for students to develop a card set to practise vocabulary. Give each pair of students a list of the 26 words. They also need a set of 26 3X5 cards - making a total of 390 cards for a class of 30 - about \$2 at a dollar store or at the back-to-school sales. Students print the 26 words on the blank side of their card set. Then give them 26 word definitions - this is a bit of work for you because you will have to type it out and duplicate it. Their job is to cut the definitions out and glue them on the back of the correct card. Be sure they have the key and then they have a set of cards with which to play games to learn the vocabulary. (Keep the cards for next year.)

Finally, ask students to write their own story, incorporating at least 8 of their words, highlighting them so that you can see they are included.

### MORE HOCKEY PICTURE BOOKS

I'm ignoring the little books about individual players, to concentrate on these rather nice picture books about hockey:

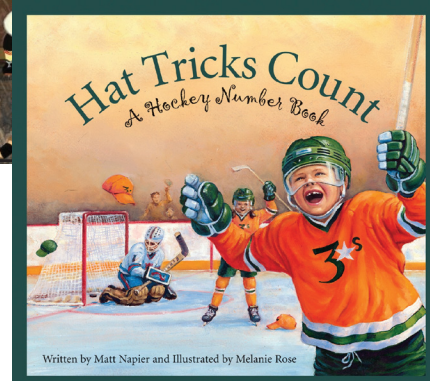
- **Just One Goal** (Robert Munsch)
- **Hat Tricks Count, A Hockey Numbers Book** (Matt Napier)
- **The Hockey Sweater** (Roch Carrier)

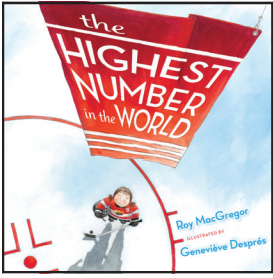
### SPORTS SURVEY

It's worthwhile setting up an Inquiry about what sports are being played by students in your class, and potentially the whole school. Picture your students out there interviewing fellow students, learning the math of it, thinking about the questions they want answered so that they collect the best information to answer their questions.

I have attached a really really simple one that just deals with the question: *What are the most common sports played outside of school?* Compare males to females and primary students (K-4), intermediate students (5-7), or middle school students (5-9) if that is how you are organized. Students learning percentage calculation can do the math as well for their results. Report results in a school announcement, in a school newsletter, and on your class blog so that they receive the maximum publicity for their results. The School Board may also be interested in knowing the kinds of organized athletic activities students participate in outside of school hours.

Students should first survey their own class, to become familiar with the form, as well as how to tally and use the results. In a single class, if it is a split grade, you can have four categories - male and female for each of the grades. Then, assign them in teams to fan out at recess and lunch and collect results. Teach them polite survey methods: "Will you please help our class with a survey? It will only take a few seconds." Ask students to read it to students who look like they may have trouble (ESL students, or primary students). Students carry a book to balance the survey on, and a pen to write with. At the end, "Thank you. We're going to announce the results over the PA."





# THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN THE WORLD, CONT.

## SPORTS SURVEY

Duplicate one per student to be surveyed. Sort the surveys into 4 categories to tally. Work out the percentages.

CIRCLE: MALE FEMALE

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

In the last year (365 days) circle all activities you have participated in outside of school.

1. HOCKEY
2. BASEBALL
3. SOCCER
4. BASKETBALL
5. RUGBY
6. FIELD HOCKEY
7. SKIING
8. TENNIS
9. SWIMMING /DIVING
10. FIGURE SKATING
11. BALLET
12. MARTIAL ARTS
13. VOLLEYBALL
14. OTHER

CIRCLE: MALE FEMALE

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

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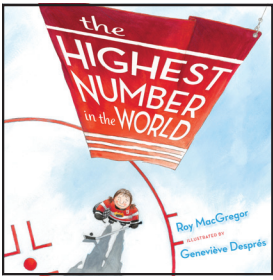
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## THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN THE WORLD, CONT.

### HOCKEY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There are many discussion questions that can arise from this book:

1. Why are hockey organizations reluctant to have mixed male and female teams?
2. What is our opinion of violence in hockey? - Especially now that we are finding that even one concussion can cause permanent brain damage.
3. How will global warming affect hockey?
4. When the kids say, "*Hayley, Number 9*" is that bullying? When does teasing cross over into bullying?
5. Why are fewer Canadian parents signing their kids up for hockey?

Below are some of the reasons parents give for the decline in the percentage of Canadian youth enrolling in hockey. See what your students think.

#### Some Reasons for the Decline in Hockey Enrolment

- New immigrants from warm countries have little experience of it.
- Warmer winters make it harder to create home-made rinks by simply flooding a field.
- The equipment is very expensive.
- Parents do not approve of body checking as it likely to cause brain damage.
- Parents do not want to pay for expensive dental work to repair broken teeth.
- Parents do not like the attitude of "hockey parents."
- The professional games are too expensive.
- Rink times for less elite players are often at ridiculous times of the day.
- The skill of teams have been diluted by opening up so many franchises.
- Players are being encouraged to actually injure other players.

