



The Rink

First Reaction

1. Write a brief journal entry giving your opinions and feelings about *The Rink*.

Look More Closely

2. Choose one of the relationships in the story — such as Jason and Cory, Jason and Mr. Givens, Michael and Mr. Givens, or Cory and Mr. Givens — and create a poster, collage, or other visual. Include information, either visual or written, about:
 - How each character feels about the other character.
 - What each character contributes to the relationship, in both a positive and negative way.
 - Changes in their relationship or feelings that happen during the story.
 - How or why their relationship is important to the story.
3. The characters often use language in imaginative ways, comparing one object, event, person, or feelings to something else. “Bathtub mouth” and “burn you like a cigarette” are examples of this. Choose two passages or statements in which the language is especially interesting or appealing to you and explain why. You can use sketches to show the images the author creates if you wish.
4. Why do you think the author chose the title *The Rink*? Do you think it is an effective title? Explain why and offer any alternatives you prefer.

Develop Your Ideas

5. If you were going to write a story about one of your relationships, what object or place might provide a focus for it? Outline the story, including the title, characters, the relationships involved, and the *defining moment*.
6. Create a found poem about one of the characters: Jason, Cory, or Mr. Givens.
 - Review the story, jotting down words and phrases the author uses to describe the character. Try to include some of the figurative language the author uses.
 - Decide on the main theme or idea you want to convey.
 - Arrange the words and phrases you have found to create a poem.
 - Ask a partner to review your poem and offer feedback.
 - Share your poem with the class.

Think About Your Found Poem

7. Look back at your found poem. How well were you able to:
 - Convey a strong overall impression of the character you chose?
 - Combine words and phrases in a way that makes sense?
 - Accurately convey key features of the character such as physical description, personality, and relationships with other characters?
 - Take risks to include or create figurative language?