

TASK 4 (b): Local Heroes – Response Booklet 3

Jean Labonté

You are almost at the final event. So far, you have learned about the Paralympic Games and sports, and about respecting people with disabilities. You will now discover one of the local Paralympic athletes from Québec who have proudly represented Canada in the Paralympic Games. The information you will collect from **Jean Labonté's** biography will be very useful for the brochure you will create to promote his achievements.



Valérie Grand'Maison
Paralympic Swimmer



Benoît Huot
Paralympic Swimmer



Benoît St-Amand
Sledge Hockey Goaltender



Jean Labonté
Sledge Hockey Player

Heroes are sometimes closer than we think!

Jean Labonté's Biography

- Read about **Jean Labonté** and complete the Response Journal on pages 3 and 4.

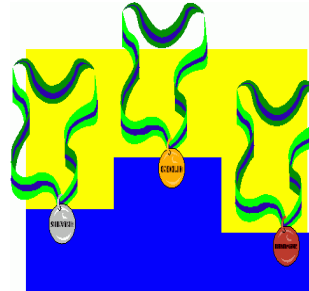


Personal Information

Name: Jean Labonté
Sport: Sledge Hockey
Date of birth: March 20, 1969
Place of birth: Hull, QC
Disability: Amputee
Height: 1m 80
Weight: 88 kg



Personal Achievements



Paralympic medals (2)

Gold
1
Silver
1
Bronze

Paralympic Games

- 2006 Torino, Italy
- 2002 Salt Lake City, USA
- 1998 Nagano, Japan

Jean's Story

In 1986, at 17, Jean Labonté was diagnosed with a type of bone cancer, frequently found in teenagers. A tumour was located in his left leg. Four years later, a serious infection caused him to be hospitalized and his left leg was amputated above the knee. "Since then, I never looked back," says Labonté. While in the hospital, Jean saw an article about sledge hockey, "Before my amputation, I was very active playing baseball, football, street hockey and swimming. When I got cancer, I stopped most of my physical activities." Discovering sledge hockey was the best thing that happened to Labonté.

Labonté, who is currently the captain of the Canadian Sledge Hockey Team, has participated in every Winter Paralympic Games since 1998. He is a calm individual who believes that a winning team is built on team unity and hard work. A natural leader, the Team Canada captain respects his teammates and always gives his maximum effort. "We're not just happy to be alive and playing," says Labonté. "We're performing athletes. It's not about being disabled. It's about passion!" Winning the gold medal in Torino's 2006 Winter Paralympic Games was a dream come true and he competed for the same honour in front of the Canadian crowd at the Vancouver Winter 2010 Paralympic Games.

Response Journal

Local Paralympic Athlete: Jean Labonté

Sport: Sledge Hockey

PHASE 1: EXPLORING THE TEXT (INDIVIDUALLY)



My first reactions to the text

- I found the text difficult/easy to read because...
- I didn't understand (word, sentence, paragraph).
- It is interesting that ...
- I'm surprised that...

Some questions about the text

1. **What** is Jean's disability?

2. **What** caused his disability?

3. **What** happened when he discovered sledge hockey?

4. According to Jean, **what** does a team need to win?

5. **What** else did Jean achieve in addition to his medals?

6. **How** does he feel about playing sledge hockey?

7. **What** did you think of the text?

Write short answers.

PHASE 1: EXPLORING THE TEXT (WITH OTHERS)

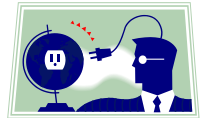


Sharing your initial understanding

1. Jean is...
2. He became... because...
3. When he discovered sledge hockey, he...
4. To win, a team needs...
5. He was also...
6. For him, playing sledge hockey is...
7. I think that the text...

Readjusting my understanding of the text

PHASE 2: CONNECTING WITH THE TEXT



My personal connections to the text

Write
short
answers.

1. **How** would you feel if you lost your legs?

2. Jean stopped doing many things he enjoyed. **How** would you react if you had to stop doing something you really liked to do?

3. Jean is a great captain for Team Canada. **What** does it mean to be a good captain?

4. Winning a gold medal in Torino was an incredible experience for Jean. **What** is one of your best achievements?

Sharing your personal connections

1. I would...
2. I would...
3. I think a good captain...
4. One of my best achievements is...

My classmates' connections

PHASE 3: GENERALIZING BEYOND THE TEXT



Paralympic athletes are role models for young people because ...

Write
short
answers.

- Use the following key words to create **two short mottoes** that best represent Jean Labonté. Look at the example.
 1. Life: Live life to the fullest!
 2. Goal: _____
 3. Training: _____