

Just for Teens!

Complete this activity and bring this page back to the Library to collect a prize. We will hang it up in an art display!

When Ghost gets new shoes, they are more than just runners. They **empower** him. "They looked like they were full of power and speed, like just wearing them could get me closer to Usain Bolt's world record." (p. 83)

Draw or write about something, or someone, that makes you feel the same way. What did this person or item empower you to do or think?

Empower: to give someone the power (or authority) to do something; make (someone) stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights.

Scissors icon at top-left corner.

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First Name: _____ Grade: _____

I read *Ghost* with my _____
(family, classroom, grandmother, parents, dog, etc.)

GHOST FAMILY READING KIT

Ghost

Ghost has been running for most of his life — from trouble, mostly. After he decides to race against one of the track stars at an after-school track practice, he is asked to join the team. That means staying out of trouble. Can he do that?

Ghost was an ALA Notable Book for 2017, a School Library Journal Best Book, and received many other honours. It is the first in the Track series.

Author: Jason Reynolds

Jason Reynolds is an American author born in Washington, D.C. When he was nine, he began writing poetry, publishing several collections. The characters in his book are teens in urban settings.

Jason Reynolds has received multiple awards for his writing, including a Newbery Honor, the Michael L. Printz Honor for Excellence in Young Adult Literature, Coretta Scott King Honor, the Walter Dean Myers Award, and the Carnegie Medal. Reynolds was twice named as a National Book Award finalist and was named as the Library of Congress' National Ambassador for Young People's Literature in January 2020.

Historical Context: A contemporary novel published in 2016.

Recommended for: ages 10 and up.



Discussion Questions

Read each question aloud and share your answers. Don't worry about staying on topic! See where the conversation leads you and encourage everyone to ask questions of their own.

- The cover of *Ghost* includes this question: "Running for his life, or from it?" What role does running play in Ghost's life? Why does he start running? How does his reason for running change?

- The main character in *Ghost*, Castle Cranshaw, gives himself his nickname. Why do you think he chooses the name Ghost? If you could choose a nickname for yourself, what would it be? Why?

- Ghost's father is in jail for coming after Ghost and his mother with a gun three years ago. Do you think Ghost misses his father? Does Ghost's relationship with Mr. Charles, Coach Brodie, and other members of the team help fill the gap in Ghost's life created by his father's behaviour? How?

- Ghost has to deal with bullying at school. Why do you think Brad Simmons picks on Ghost? How does Ghost respond? What could Ghost have done instead of fighting?

- How does Coach's background parallel Ghost's experiences? How did Coach overcome his traumatic experiences? How does this influence Ghost?

Sign up for the *Ghost* Family Reading Kit Book Club to receive more activities, resources, and invites to programs and events right in your inbox! Register online at calgarylibrary.ca/family-reading-kit

An Activity for your Family to Do Together

Some passions are independent, and some are shared. Ghost is the only runner in his family, but on Fridays, he and his mother play cards with his aunt. Do you have activities that only some of your family members are passionate about? Do you have activities that you all enjoy doing together?

Create a Venn diagram as a family, where each circle represents a person in your family. Write or draw your personal interests, hobbies, and passions in your circle. Where the circles overlap, write the passions and interests you share with each other. Then, try the activities you enjoy together. For a bigger challenge, teach and show each other the interests or activities you enjoy independently. You never know, maybe Grandpa is a better sprinter than you realized!

Share a photo of your Venn diagram with the Library on social media [@calgarylibrary](https://twitter.com/calgarylibrary).

Venn diagram: a diagram that shows the relationship between groups of things using overlapping circles.

Materials Required: • paper • pencil, pens, or crayons

