

Boys of Winter – Discussion Questions

General Questions:

Did you enjoy the book (or whatever part you read)? Why or why not?

This game has been described for years as a “miracle on ice.” Have you ever attended, or watched on TV, a sports event that was so incredible it could be described as “miraculous?”

What were some of the biggest challenges faced by the individual players? What were some larger challenges that they faced as a team?

Was Coach Herb Brooks justified in how hard he pushed the team? Do you think he was the main reason the U.S. team won or do you think they would have won with any coach?

In-Depth Questions:

What was the state of U.S. – Soviet relations at the time of the 1980 Olympics? Why was so much importance placed on this hockey game in light of this political climate?

Think about the scene where Coach Brooks tells the players “If you don’t want to skate during the game, then you’ll skate after it.” What was he trying to tell them during that scene and was it worth it? How would you have reacted if you had been one of the players?

What makes a great leader? Were there certain players that became leaders because of this hockey season (ex: Eruzione)? Who are some other coaches or athletes (either now or in history) that you think are remarkable leaders, and why?

Do you think that people (whether American or Russian) watching the Olympics became more patriotic about their nation after the last few seconds of that game? Let’s watch it now and tell me what you think – does it make you more proud to be American when you watch these few moments? How does language in a book, or a scene in a film, accomplish that and why was this particular scene so effective?