**CRASH by Jerry Spinelli**

**Activity #1**

Read the blurb on the back of the book and write answers to the following questions, explaining each answer that you give:

1. Do you think that this book will be interesting to read?
2. Do you think that Crash will be a likeable character?
3. What do you think the words ‘dweeby’, ‘mowing down’, ‘hilarious’ and ‘prank’ mean?
4. What do you think that Webb might have that Crash ‘may never gain’?
5. What do you think the story will be about – do you think it is a suitable theme for 6th Grade?
6. What do you think Mike might do to Webb?
7. What do you think might happen at the end of the story?
8. What do you know about American football? Do you think that it will be important to understand how the game is played to understand the story?

**Homework**

Find out the basic rules of American football. How many players are there in a team and what are their roles? What do they wear? How are points scored and who scores them? What is allowed and what behaviour is penalized? What are the main American football competitions and what do the cheerleaders do? (You do not need to write the answers to these questions.)

# Go to Youtube and look for ‘American football for newbees’. In Wikipedia you will find basic information.

# Write a short paragraph about your impressions of American football.

# Is it the sort of game you would like to play or watch? Is it similar to any sport you have played or watched? Is it easy or difficult to understand? What sort of characteristics do you think make a good player? Have you ever seen a real game? Do you think a good football player would be a popular person in school?

Chapter 1

1. What is Crash’s real name?
2. Why is he called Crash?
3. Why did he knock down his cousin?
4. What does the term ‘bawled bloody murder’ mean?
5. Which of the following words describe Webb:

tall, short, thin, muscular, respectful, rude, happy, miserable, confident, timid, talkative, silent?

1. The Penn Relays are a big racing competition – true or false?
2. Why did Crash take such an instant dislike to Penn Webb?
3. Because he was too happy and confident.
4. Because he was skinny and badly dressed.
5. Because he was invading Crash’s space.
6. How many brothers and sisters did Penn have?
7. Why do you think Crash told him that his name was Mergatroid?
8. What did Crash do to get rid of Penn? What do you think about this?