

# THAT'S NOT HOCKEY!

by Andrée Poulin • illustrated by Félix Girard

**Genre:** Picture book

**Themes:** sports; hockey; determination; innovation; bullying

**Suitable for:** Grades K–2

**Guided Reading Level:** M

**Common Core standards:** L.2.3,4,4a,4c,4d,5,5a,5a,6  
RF.2.3,3d,3f,4,4a,4b  
SL.2.1,1b,1c,2,2,4,6  
W.2.1,2,3,5,7,8  
RI.2.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,10

## Summary

This picture book is the true story of the legendary goalie, Jacques Plante. No amount of teasing or bullying can distract Jacques from his childhood passion for hockey. In 1959 he became the first player to wear a mask regularly, changing the game for all time.

## BEFORE STARTING THE BOOK

These activities build the context and introduce the topic of the book, and establish prior knowledge and interest.

1. Before reading *That's Not Hockey!*, ask your students if they play any team sports. What are they? How do the students like being part of a team?
2. Give students an opportunity to “read the cover” and predict what the book will be about. Some children may notice that the character on the front cover isn't wearing the kind of equipment we associate with hockey today.

Questions for students:

- How does the scene on the cover look similar to what you've seen or experienced? How is it different?
- Do you think this story will be about modern times, or the past? What clues on the cover make you think that?

3. Preview the following hockey-specific vocabulary that might be new to students:

crease

defensemen

factory team

goalie

net

puck

slap shot

## WHILE READING THE BOOK

These activities check on comprehension, stimulate interest, involve readers in reflection as they read, and encourage consideration of other readers' reactions.

1. As a child, Jacques Plante doesn't have proper hockey equipment, but he keeps playing anyway. Why does he keep playing? When he doesn't have a hockey puck or a goalie stick or pads, what does he do?
2. How would you describe Jacques Plante's character? What kind of person was he? How do the characteristics of determination and innovation help Jacques when he's an adult?
3. How would you describe Coach Blake? Why does Coach Blake not like Jacques' mask? What is he afraid of?
4. Jacques Plante said, "If you jumped out of a plane without a parachute, would that make you brave?" What does it mean to be brave?

## AFTER READING THE BOOK

These activities inspire continued reflection and response to the text, bring conclusion to the experience of reading this particular text, and stimulate further extensions.

1. Many people (reporters, fans, other players) tease and criticize Jacques Plante. Why do you think they do that? Why doesn't Jacques listen to them? Have you ever done something that felt good or right, and then been teased for doing it? Or have you ever laughed at or made fun of someone for doing something different? Why?

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

These activities are only a start. They are designed to support the goal of helping students explore the story and their own creativity.

### **SPORTS BOOKS AND *THAT'S NOT HOCKEY!***

What other sports books have you read? How are they alike or different from *That's Not Hockey!*?

### **JACQUES MAKES HISTORY!**

Write a headline that might have appeared in the newspaper the day after Jacques first wore his mask in a game.

You can show your class this short film about Jacques Plante's place in sports history.

<https://www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/jacques-plante>

### **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Imagine you are seven-year-old Jacques wearing your potato-sack goalie pads. What do your friends say when they see your goalie pads? What do you say back? What do you do? Write down the imagined conversation.

### **BALL HOCKEY OR BALLOON HOCKEY**

Your classroom discussion of *That's Not Hockey!* could tie in with a physical education class, by playing a game of either ball hockey or balloon hockey for younger children. Using Jacques Plante as an example, you could discuss which rules are necessary to keep students safe (for example, keeping sticks below the shoulder).

For balloon hockey, you will need:

- balloons
- one or two large boxes, baskets, or anything that can act as a “net”
- one hockey stick per child, or:
  - a flat piece of cardboard, approximately 15 x 20 cm (8 x 6 in)
  - a long cardboard tube (like the ones from rolls of wrapping paper)
  - scissors
  - Optional: tape, ideally wide packing tape

If you don't have hockey sticks available, students can make their own. To do this, cut 6–8 cm (2–3 in) slits down the sides of one end of the cardboard tube.

Slide the flat piece of cardboard into the slits. Reinforce the bottom edge of the flat cardboard with a couple of strips of packing tape. You can also put a strip of tape across the bottom end of the tube to secure it to the flat cardboard.

Depending on your group, you can either play with one “net” or two, in teams or all together. With their cardboard hockey sticks, students try to hit their balloon into the “net” to score a goal.

### **COLOR YOUR OWN GOALIE MASK**

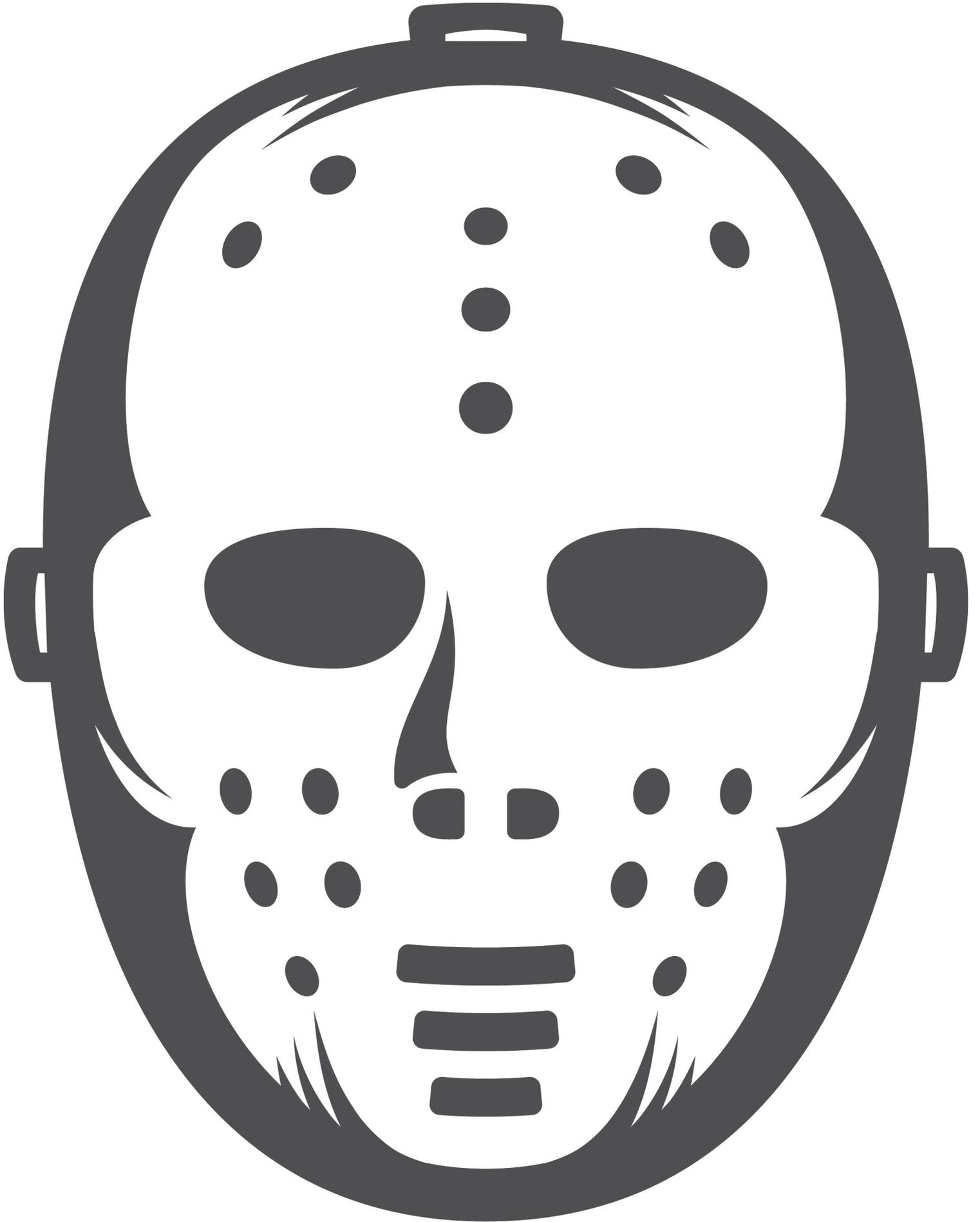
Thanks to Jacques Plante, hockey masks are now mandatory for all goaltenders (and other players). In the late 1960s, goalie Gerry Cheevers started drawing stitch marks on his mask every time it was hit, to symbolize where Cheevers would have needed stitches if he hadn't been wearing a mask. Soon his mask was the most recognizable one in the NHL.

Students can color one of the mask templates at the end of the lesson plan.

### **COLOR YOUR OWN HOME AND AWAY JERSEYS**

Hockey teams wear different uniforms depending on whether they are the “home” team or the “away” team. Each version uses the same colors in different combinations to create two distinctive uniforms. Using the template at the end of the lesson plan, ask students to color a “home” uniform and an “away” uniform for their team, using the same two or three colors.

COLOR YOUR OWN GOALIE MASK



COLOR YOUR TEAM'S HOME AND AWAY UNIFORMS,  
USING ONLY TWO OR THREE COLORS.

