



and the Team Penske Pit Crew News Story Stories about TEAMWORK and SPORTSMANSHIP

The children's book *The Trouble with Howard* is inspired by a real-life story of racecar driver Howard and his mechanic Anita who rescues a skunk at the racetrack. The Team Penske news reel highlights women breaking ground in racing as mechanics and engineers. Both stories center on sportsmanship and women working in racing, and show that everyone should be able to follow their dreams.

Driving Question: What does it mean to be a good sport?

Discussion Questions

Women First in Racing

Anita Millican was the first woman ever licensed as an IndyCar mechanic and the first to go "over the wall" as pit crew. Caitlyn Brown is the first woman to win the Indy 500 doing the same. Going "over the wall" is when a mechanic, as part of the pit crew, goes over the safety wall in the pits to change the tires on the race car during the race. Janet Guthrie was the first woman driver to race the Indy 500. Danica Patrick was the first woman to win an IndyCar race.

What made Anita special as a mechanic (a person who works on cars)? What did she do to help prepare the race car?

Name _____



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Why does Trouble need help? What should you do if you see a wild animal that needs help?

How was Jack NOT a good sport? How did Howard show good sportsmanship?

Many people are afraid of skunks because they can spray you with a bad smell. This protects the skunk. People might be afraid when they don't understand something or someone. How can learning help us overcome our fears?

Howard's racecar was always orange and had his favorite #71. Design your own race car, driver suit,



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How can Caitlyn Brown's story help others? What makes her special?

A trailblazer is someone who leads the way for others or who is a "first" in some way. Can you think of other trailblazers or people who inspire you?

Has anyone ever encouraged you to try something new? Who?

Caitlyn Brown works with a team to reach a clear goal. Share a story about being on a team.

How is your classroom like a team? How can you work together?



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RACING TERMS

Mechanic: the person that can build or fix a car.

Pits: the area where all the teams work on the race cars at the track.

Pit crew: the mechanics that work on the race car and go over the wall on pit stops.

Hauler: the trailers that racers used to take cars to the racetrack.

Sanctioning body: officials that set rules and make sure the race is fair.

Chief steward: the head official of a race.

Safety truck: a truck that arrives on the track to check on the driver and car after a crash.

Over-the-wall: pit crews go over the safety wall on pit road to change the tires on the racecar during the race

FLAGS USED IN RACING

Green: Go! The race has started.

Red: Stop! The race is stopped, usually because of rain.

Yellow: Caution! There is a crash on the racetrack. All race cars slow down and no passing is allowed.

Blue and Orange: Pass Flag. The driver needs to let the faster car behind him go by.

White: One lap to go!

Black: The car shown the black flag must leave the race – the car has a problem, or the driver has done something wrong.

Checkered: The race is finished.

EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Work with students to set up a flag system for the classroom. For example: red for silent work, yellow for quiet group or partner work, green for discussion time, or purple for free time.
- Using images from the book, have students color or design their own car, driver suit, or helmet.
- Using images from the book, have students take turns making up their own story based on the images they see. Play with changing the order of the images to create new stories.
- Trouble's leg is stuck in a plastic ring when Howard finds him. Discuss the impact of litter on communities and wildlife. Organize a trash pick up activity on the school grounds or as a field trip.