

Discussion Questions

Headshot by Rita Bullwinkel

Source: Google AI Overview



Success and Motivation:

1. Does the novel suggest that success is solely determined by motivation?
2. Are there characters who demonstrate high motivation but ultimately fail, or vice versa?
3. How does the novel portray the different types of motivation, both positive and negative?

The Colors Red and Blue:

4. How does Bullwinkel use the colors red and blue, typically associated with boxing, to symbolize different aspects of the tournament and the characters?
5. What are the emotional connotations of these colors in the context of the book?

The Importance of the Semifinal Round:

6. Why does the novel dedicate so much of its narrative to the first day of the tournament?
7. What does this focus reveal about the significance of the semifinal round in the lives of the young boxers?
8. How does the climax of the first day foreshadow the events of the second day?

Violence and Meaninglessness:

9. How does the novel depict violence?
10. Does the presentation of violence offer a resistance to the perceived meaninglessness of the world?
11. How do the boxers use violence to assert their power and identity?

Legacy and Family:

12. How does the novel explore the concept of legacy, particularly through Artemis's story?
13. How does Artemis respond to the pressure of being the last in a line of girl-boxers?
14. Does her family's support of her boxing create a burden or a source of pride?

Female Bodies and Animal Metaphors:

15. How does the novel explore the female body and its connection to animalistic instincts?
16. How does the author use animal metaphors to explore the themes of power, competition, and survival?

Time Manipulation:

17. How does the novel utilize time manipulation to create a sense of suspense and intimacy?
18. How does the author's approach to time affect the reader's experience of the narrative?