

## TASK 4 (b): Local Heroes – Response Booklet 3

### Jean Labonté – Correction Key

You are almost at the final event. So far, you have learned about the Paralympic Games and sports, and about respecting people with disabilities. You will now discover one of the local Paralympic athletes from Québec who have proudly represented Canada in the Paralympic Games. The information you will collect from **Jean Labonté's** biography will be very useful for the brochure you will create to promote his achievements.



**Valérie Grand'Maison**  
Paralympic Swimmer



**Benoît Huot**  
Paralympic Swimmer



**Benoît St-Amand**  
Sledge Hockey Goaltender



**Jean Labonté**  
Sledge Hockey Player

**Heroes are sometimes closer than we think!**

## Jean Labonté's Biography



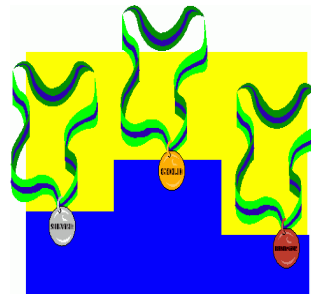
- Read about **Jean Labonté** and complete the Response Journal on pages 3 and 4.

### Personal Information

**Name:** Jean Labonté  
**Sport:** Sledge Hockey  
**Date of birth:** March 20, 1969  
**Place of birth:** Hull, QC  
**Disability:** Amputee  
**Height:** 1m 80  
**Weight:** 88 kg



### Personal Achievements



#### Paralympic medals (2)

**Gold**

1

**Silver**

1

**Bronze**

### Paralympic Games

- 2006 Torino, Italy
- 2002 Salt Lake City, USA
- 1998 Nagano, Japan

### Jean's Story

In 1986, at 17, Jean Labonté was diagnosed with a type of bone cancer, frequently found in teenagers. A tumour was located in his left leg. Four years later, a serious infection caused him to be hospitalized and his left leg was amputated above the knee. "Since then, I never looked back," says Labonté. While in the hospital, Jean saw an article about sledge hockey, "Before my amputation, I was very active playing baseball, football, street hockey and swimming. When I got cancer, I stopped most of my physical activities." Discovering sledge hockey was the best thing that happened to Labonté.

Labonté, who is currently the captain of the Canadian Sledge Hockey Team, has participated in every Winter Paralympic Games since 1998. He is a calm individual who believes that a winning team is built on team unity and hard work. A natural leader, the Team Canada captain respects his teammates and always gives his maximum effort. "We're not just happy to be alive and playing," says Labonté. "We're performing athletes. It's not about being disabled. It's about passion!" Winning the gold medal in Torino's 2006 Winter Paralympic Games was a dream come true and he competed for the same honour in front of the Canadian crowd at the Vancouver Winter 2010 Paralympic Games.

# Response Journal

## Local Paralympic Athlete: Jean Labonté

### Sport: Sledge hockey

#### PHASE 1: EXPLORING THE TEXT (INDIVIDUALLY)



##### My first reactions to the text

- I found the text difficult/easy to read because ...
- I didn't understand (word, sentence, paragraph).
- It is interesting that ...
- I'm surprised that ...

##### Some questions about the text

Write short answers.

1. **What** is Jean's disability?  
*Amputee.*
2. **What** caused his disability?  
*Bone cancer at 17. He had a tumour in his left leg. Four years later, his leg got amputated above the knee.*
3. **What** happened when he discovered sledge hockey?  
*He was born again. He said it was the best thing that could happen to him.*
4. According to Jean, **what** does a team need to win?  
*Unity.*
5. **What** else did Jean achieve In addition to his medals?  
*Only player named on every edition of Team Canada since 1996.*
6. **How** does he feel about playing sledge hockey?  
*He always gives his maximum effort. It is not about being disabled but about passion. Etc.*
7. **What** did you think of the text?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### PHASE 1: EXPLORING THE TEXT (WITH OTHERS)

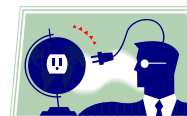


##### Sharing your initial understanding

1. Jean is ...
2. He became ... because ...
3. **When** he discovered sledge hockey, he ...
4. To win, a team needs ...
5. He was also ...
6. For him, playing sledge hockey is ...
7. I think that the text ...

##### Readjusting my understanding of the text

## PHASE 2: CONNECTING WITH THE TEXT



### My personal connections to the text

Write  
short  
answers.

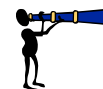
1. **How** would you feel if you lost your legs?  
*I would be sad; I would cry. I would be afraid or scared.*
2. Jean stopped doing many things he enjoyed. **How** would you react if you had to stop doing something you really liked to do?  
*I would be mad and frustrated. I would try to find an alternative. I would think of what else I like to do.*
3. Jean is a great captain for Team Canada. **What** does it mean to be a good captain?  
*A good captain creates team spirit and the players follow their captain. He leads his team to success.*
4. Winning a gold medal in Torino was an incredible experience for Jean. **What** is one of your best achievements?  
*I won the artistic gymnastic medal. My soccer team won the championship, etc.*

### Sharing your personal connections

1. I would ...
2. I would ...
3. I think a good captain ...
4. One of my best achievements ...

### My classmates' connections

## PHASE 3: GENERALIZING BEYOND THE TEXT



### Paralympic athletes are role models for young people because ...

*They are examples of courage and determination. They persevere to attain their goals. They do not get discouraged in front of a challenge. They are passionate about life. Their disabilities don't stop them from working hard. They don't feel self-pity. They believe in themselves.*

- Use the following key words to create **two short mottos** that best represent Jean Labonté. Look at the example.
  1. **Life:** *Make life your passion!*
  2. **Goal:** *Never lose track of your goal! OR Reach for your goal!*
  3. **Training:** *Training is the key to success!*