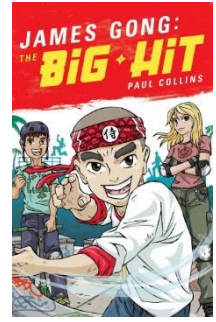


JAMES GONG

The **Big Hit**



*'Dad says I'm just the kind of kid who sets out for the North Pole and somehow ends up at the South Pole.'*  
*James Gong: The Big Hit, page 1*

Read the above quote. What do you think the author (Paul Collins) is trying to show readers about James Gong?

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Read the following quotes. What do you think they infer about the person in question?

She'd forgot her head if it wasn't screwed on.

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His teacher told him that empty vessels make the most noise.

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Mum says she likes to dot her i's and cross her t's.

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Dad's coach told him persistence is a great substitute for talent.

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# JAMES GONG

The **Big Hit**



*'Dad says I'm just the kind of kid who sets out for the North Pole and somehow ends up at the South Pole.'*  
*James Gong: The Big Hit, page 1*

The above quote is James's father's way of saying that things don't always go as planned for his son. Paul Collins is using the 'show, don't tell' strategy of showing readers something about James, rather than telling them. Imagine a child has the traits below. What would their father say to 'show' us these traits? The first question has been completed for you as an example.

1. He rushes into things without thinking.

Dad says I'm the kind of kid who dives in headfirst before checking the pool has any water.

2. He never gives up.

Dad says I'm the kind of kid who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. He always finishes something a lot quicker than expected.

Dad says I'm the kind of kid who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. He gets lost a lot.

Dad says I'm the kind of kid who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. He is always happy.

Dad says I'm the kind of kid who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. He loves to sleep-in.

Dad says I'm the kind of kid who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

JAMES GONG

The **Big Hit**



*But yes, I'm **that** kid. The Most Famous Kid in High School Kid. Cover of **Who Magazine** kid. Kid voted most likely to have a Gigantic Impact on the World. I guess that's a lot to live up to.*

James Gong: The Big Hit, page 2

Imagine James Gong appeared on the front cover of *Who Magazine*. What would the headline be? What would the article say? What would he be doing in the photograph? Create the front cover in the space below.

# JAMES GONG

## The **Big Hit**



*My uniform does pong a bit (for all the brain-starved victims of our current education system, that's **Pong** with a P, P-O-N-G, not to be confused with Gong with a G). I should've sprayed them with deodorant.*

James Gong: The Big Hit, page 4

Changing one letter of James's last name makes it really funny: James Pong! Below is a list of Star Wars characters. Can you change one letter of their name to turn it into a funny one? The first one has been completed for you as an example (using a character from *James Gong: The Big Hit*).

Character	Letter Change	New Name
Han Solo	'n' to 'm' in first his first name	Ham Solo
Luke Skywalker		
Jabba the Hutt		
Yoda		
Greedo		
Jango Fett		
Jar Jar Binks		
Poe Dameron		
Count Dooku		
Finn		
Kylo Ren		

JAMES GONG

The **Big Hit**



*'Great.'* Marcie says she'd like to 'come collect me' at three. I give her the address and race off downstairs to find Mum. Mr Freddo cheers me on.

*The afternoon goes by in a blur. Next thing I know there's a knock on the door.*

James Gong: The Big Hit, page 41

Paul Collins has used the phrase 'The afternoon goes by in a blur' to transition from Marcie calling James to when she arrives to pick him up. This is an important skill for writers to keep readers engaged. Paul has skipped the boring part of James waiting for Marcie by using the highlighted phrase and kept us engrossed in the story. Find and write down other expressions Paul Collins has used to transition from one time period to the next in *James Gong: The Big Hit* and list them below.

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Read other books or make up your own phrases that you could use in your writing to skip boring parts and transition to a more exciting time.

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# JAMES GONG

## The **Big Hit**



*'I've actually written down some stage names,' I say and quickly pull out a wrinkled piece of paper. Smoothing it out on the table like a napkin, I read out, 'Johnny Mangleton. Lee "Fists" McCoy. Tae Kwon Fist. James "Blaster" Gonggg!'*  
 James Gong: The Big Hit, page 44

James Gong made up several stage names for himself. Using your knowledge of other characters in the book, create a stage name or nickname for them. The nickname should have something to do with the character's personality, habits, traits etc.

Character Name	Your Nickname for Them	Reasons for Giving the Nickname (include evidence from the text)

# JAMES GONG

The **Big Hit**



*I do a search online. Neither YouTube nor Google are much help. I know all the technical terms (the jargon). I know how to do transitions, catch air, make grabs and grind street iron. But knowing ain't doing. And I don't have a year to practise.*

James Gong: The Big Hit, page 52

In the section above, James Gong mentions many technical terms about skating. When writing about a specific topic it's important to know the technical terms. Go through the book and find the technical terms about these topics and write them in the corresponding rectangle.

Taekwondo

Movies

A topic of your choice: \_\_\_\_\_