

Go for the Goal by Fred Bowen

Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions

Aligned with Common Core Reading Standards

Directions: Use details from the text to support *all* of your answers.

Chapters 1 – 3

Josh and Aidan are excited that they have made the United, a select soccer team. But it's very different than their old team, the Flames. How does Josh think it's different? How does his mom think it's different? How do Josh and his mom disagree about him playing for the United?

Chapters 4 – 6

List two reasons why the United don't "click" (play well together) in their first tournament. Now think about the cafeteria setting in Chapter 6. Even though the characters aren't playing soccer, how does the author show that Josh and Aidan's experience with the Flames was probably a lot different than it is with the United?

Chapters 7 – 9

How does Josh come up with the idea of doing team-building exercises? Why does he think these will help the United in a real game?

Chapters 10 – 12

In Chapter 10, how do the United teammates play differently than before? How has the exercise with the purple blanket help them become better soccer players?

Chapters 13 – 15

How has Josh's experience on the United changed since the beginning of the story? Chose at least two scenes that show how it has changed.

Chapter 16 – 17

How do Josh and Aidan feel about Evan at the beginning of the book? How do they feel about him at the end? Why do their feelings change about him?

Overall Question

In just a few words, write down what this whole story is about (the overall theme or big idea). Explain your response.

The Real Story (The nonfiction section at the end)

What did you learn about the 1999 U.S. Women's Soccer Team that you didn't know? How does the information in The Real Story relate to the theme or the plot of the whole story.