

# Touchdown Trouble by Fred Bowen

## Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions

Aligned with Common Core Reading Standards

Directions: Use details from the text to support ALL of your responses.

### Chapter 1

What can you tell about Sam from the first chapter? How do the play diagrams help the reader understand what is going on in the play?

### Chapter 2

How would you describe the Cowboys as a team? Is Sam's father interested in Sam's football team and how they do? How can you tell?

### Chapter 3

What does the touch football game tell you about the feelings between the Cowboys and the Giants?

### Chapter 4

What does Sam find at the end of this chapter? What does he decide to do with it? How does Sam justify his decision? Could he have made another decision?

### Chapter 5

How does Brady act in the meeting with Mr. Hanley? Why do you think he acts this way? Describe Mr. Hanley. Do you think he believes Brady and Sam?

### Chapter 6

Trey says to Sam, "Now that you *found* that scooter...." The word found is in *italics* in the book. What does that tell you about how Trey said the word and how he feels about Sam keeping the scooter?

### Chapter 7

How would you describe the game between the Cowboys and Giants? Why does the author keep mentioning the time left in the game?

### Chapter 8

Describe how the Giants treat each other during the traditional Friday evening pizza party. Describe some of the personalities on the team. Sam's happy at first but then his mood changes dramatically. What happened?

## Chapter 9

Sam's says the team did not win the Giants game fairly. Why does Sam think that? Why does Trey say the team should keep the win? Trey compares the Cowboys keeping the win in the Giants game to Sam's keeping the scooter. Are they the same thing?

## Chapter 10

Why does Sam return the scooter? How does Sam act around Sergeant Jones. How does Sergeant Jones act? Do you think she believes Sam's story? Sam is offered a reward. Why does he refuse it?

## Chapter 11

The setting is a rainy game. How does the author use the rain to help the reader understand the way Sam is feeling? Use exact words or sentences from the text to show what you mean.

## Chapter 12

Why do you think Sam's dad shows the film of the end of the Giants game first? What is the team's reaction? Why does Sam's dad tell the story of the 1940 Cornell / Dartmouth game

## Chapter 13

Compare the arguments that Sam and Trey make about whether the Cowboys should keep the victory over the Giants. How does the fact that Sam brought back the scooter help his argument against Trey concerning the game? How does the way the vote is conducted increase the drama and tension of the chapter?

## Chapter 14

Why do the Cowboys play poorly in the first half against the Lions? Why are the Giants cheering for the Cowboys? What is the Cowboys' reaction?

## Chapter 15

Compare how Sam and Trey treat each other in Chapter 15 to how they treat each other in Chapter 13? What has happened? Why did Trey change?

## 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.)

How does the information in The Real Story relate to the theme or the plot of the whole story.