

Soccer Team Upset 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

Describe what kind of team the Cougars are. Tyler says Zack will not leave the Cougars because the Cougars have a “perfect team.” What could be another reason why Tyler thinks Zack will not leave the Cougars?

Chapter 2

Describe how the boys at the park act together. Do you think they are all friends?

Chapter 3

List the reasons why Zack wants to play for the Panthers. How does Tyler feel about Zack wanting to play for the Panthers?

Chapter 4

Compare and contrast how Tyler feels about his team now with how he felt about his team in Chapter 1. What are some good things that happen to Tyler because Zack and the two other players left to join the Panthers?

Chapter 5

How does Tyler feel about Zack showing up at the Cougars first game and giving Tyler advice?

Chapter 6

Compare the Panthers games with the Cougars games. What is different? What is the same?

Chapter 7

What is Tyler’s reaction to Zack trying to practice with the Cougars? Compare how Tyler and Mario feel about Zack.

Chapter 8

There is an expression: “It is better to be lucky than good.” How does that expression apply to the game?

Chapter 9

What is Tyler’s initial reaction to Zack’s invitation to play with the Panthers? Why do you think he reacts that way? How does he feel when he actually plays with the Panthers? Why does Tyler turn down Coach Wexler’s invitation to play with the Panthers?

Chapter 10

The Cougars seem to be getting better as a team. What are some reasons for their improvement?

Chapter 11

Compare how Mario feels about the season with how Tyler feels about the season.

Chapter 12

How would you describe how Tyler feels about Zack? How would you describe how Zack feels about Tyler? Refer to scenes or actions in the story to support your answer.

Chapter 13

Tyler says, “I thought teammates were important.” What does he mean by that? Mario says, “Being friends is important too.” What does he mean by that?

Chapter 14

How does the setting in this chapter contribute to the humor in the chapter?

Chapter 15

How is Mr. Robertson’s message—about “one play” and any team being able to beat another—an encouraging message in this story?

Chapter 16

Mikey, a substitute defender, scores the winning goal. How does Mikey scoring that goal fit in with the whole story is about?

Chapter 17

Compare Tyler’s reaction to Zack wanting to play touch football now with his reaction to Zack wanting to play in Chapter 13. How is it different and why do you think it has changed?

Overall Question:

In 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?