

RIDLEY'S ROVERS

Teacher Resources, Week 1

This PDF contains:

- **Text Questions:** In this section, you will find questions about the chapter. These can be used orally in guided or shared reading discussions, as an independent comprehension exercise, or as part of a written homework or reading club activity.
- **Making the Choice and Voting:** Before choosing how to vote, students could discuss, as a group or a class, the wider context of the story and the consequences for the characters of each voting option at the end of the chapter. Students should be encouraged to use a variety of resources in their research, including books and the Internet.
- **Writing Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section.
- **Other Extension Activities:** This section provides ideas for cross-curricular extension activities related to the chapter.
- **Worksheets and Puzzles:** This section provides printable worksheets and puzzles for student use. Answers are also provided where appropriate.
- **Picture Resources:** This section provides images to inspire student discussion. These images can be displayed on a whiteboard or printed.
- **Resources:** Here you will find a list of relevant websites and books that students might find useful.

Text Questions

Chapter 1: A Bad Team Going Nowhere

1. Can you name the main characters in chapter 1, *A Bad Team Going Nowhere*? What do you find out about each of these characters in this first chapter?
2. Which character is telling the story?
3. Why do you think the author started chapter 1 with *Once upon a time*?
4. Why do you think the author printed the first paragraph in italics?
5. What nickname did West Park Rovers have and why did they get this nickname?
Teacher note: *Worst Park Rovers, because we were rubbish.*
6. What interesting adjectives does the author use to describe Ridley in the first paragraph? Go back to the text to find them.
7. Do you think the members of West Park Rovers get on well together? Do they make a good team? Find the evidence in the chapter to answer this question.
8. What special role does Liam play in this team? Go back to the text to find out.
9. Why do you think Liam shouts, "*Come on, we can still get back into this!*" even though he doesn't believe what he is saying?
10. What does Liam notice about the figure on the touchline? Go back to the text to find out. Why do you think the author decided to have this character wearing a hood?

11. Can you make the expression that Kitty makes to Liam that suggests “*What’s the point, Liam?*” Have a go.
12. What was West Park Rover’s worst defeat? What words can you think of that would describe how the players felt after this match?
13. What did Liam think about the one goal West Park Rovers scored against Newton Colts? Go back to the text to find out.
14. Why didn’t that goal make Liam feel better?
15. Why do you think the team were doing badly that season? Find the evidence in the text to answer this question.
16. What do you think is the meaning of the phrase, *they’d hammered the final nail in our coffin?* Have you heard this phrase before?
17. Why does Liam think they could have done with the hooded figure on the pitch? Go back to the chapter to find out.
18. How does Liam describe the black hood that Ridley wears? Go back to the text to find out. Why do you think the author writes this?
Teacher note: *like a monk’s cowl (I think that’s what they’re called).*
19. Why do you think Liam becomes disheartened with the team? Find the evidence in the chapter to answer this question.
20. Why does Micky say, “*We need to get stuck in – to the opposition, not each other.*”?
21. Why was Bradley the least popular member of the team? Go back to the chapter to find out.
22. Find the simile the author uses to describe Bradley’s face when he is angry. What do you think about this simile?
Teacher note: *his face as red as a Liverpool shirt.*

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by Alan Durant



23. Why does Bradley quit the team? Do you think his action was justified?
24. Find the description the author uses to describe the way Ridley pulls the hood. What do you think about this description?
25. What did you think about the last sentence of chapter 1? Why do you think the author chose to end the chapter this way?

Making the Choice and Voting

Who is Ridley?

Option 1: Ridley is a cocksure and confident boy who says he can play in any position. Kitty warms to him, but Liam isn't sure.

Do you think option 1 would make a good chapter 2? Why do you think Liam might not be sure about this new player? Perhaps Liam is afraid that Ridley might threaten his position as captain. What does 'cocksure' mean? Do you know anyone who is cocksure? How would you feel about having someone like that on your team? How might Ridley affect the West Park Rovers? If Ridley is not a very nice person but helps the team to win games, is that the most important thing?

Option 2: Ridley is a cool, determined girl who says nothing about her past. Liam warms to her, but Kitty isn't sure.

Do you think option 2 would make a good chapter 2? Would you like to see Ridley as a girl and read about the effect she has on this failing team? How might the story be different if the hero is a girl rather than a boy? How does the class vote divide between girls and boys on this issue?

Option 3: Ridley is a boy with strange, old-fashioned hair and clothes. He has an odd way of speaking and the team think he's going to be rubbish.

Do you think this option sounds interesting? Can you think of any reasons why Ridley seems so odd and old-fashioned? Perhaps he is a figure from the past. How might this affect the story? Would you like to find out?

Which is the more mysterious option?

Writing Activities

Make a list of the main characters that feature in chapter 1. Write at least one sentence about each of them.

Do you like playing football or other sports? Would you like to learn to play a new game – like football, swimming or tennis for example? Write about how you feel about sports in general, what you enjoy or don't enjoy playing and what new sport you might like to learn to play.

If you were Micky the coach, what would you do to try and get West Park Rovers playing better as a team? You might like to discuss your ideas in a small group and then write down a list of suggestions that you think could improve the team's performance and their enjoyment of the game.

Write a conversation between two of the players of West Park Rovers that shows they are no longer working together as a team. Don't forget to add speech marks when the players are talking.

What do you think Ridley is going to look like? Write the first paragraph of chapter 2 about how he or she looks. Try to use interesting adjectives to describe his or her appearance.

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What do you think Ridley will say to the team at the beginning of chapter 2?

Write down what you hope he or she will say. Remember to use the correct punctuation.

Imagine you are Kitty having a conversation with another girlfriend about West Park Rovers. Write down what you think she might say and how her friend, (give her a name), will respond. Remember to use the correct punctuation.

Do you play for a football team? Write about your best game and why the team performed well.

Look at the options at the end of chapter 1. Write the first sentence or two of chapter 2 based on the option you would vote for.

Other Extension Activities

Art Activities

Draw an action shot of Liam or Kitty playing for West Park Rovers. Write a caption to go with your picture explaining what will happen next.

Draw a 'mug shot' of Ridley showing how you think he or she looks. Write an interesting and informative caption to go with your picture.

Discussion Activities

Do you like sport or do you hate it? In a small group, discuss your feelings about sport honestly.

Research Activities

Do some class research. Find out which sports are most popular in your class. Make a chart that shows the different sports and the number of people that like them. You might like to do a chart for the sports that class members enjoy playing and another chart for the sports they enjoy watching on TV.

Drama Activities

Can you mime a playing football? Try this alone and then in a small group.

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

Here is a list of challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 1 of *Ridley's Rovers*: **fleet-footed, quick-witted, fast-talking, clenched my fists, spectators, thrashed, tactics, raise our spirits, monk's cowl, good riddance.**

You may wish to explore this vocabulary with your pupils, to aid their understanding of the chapter and enhance, or 'up level', the quality of their own writing. You might like to use the boxed versions of the words below on your 'working wall' or literacy display!

fleet-footed

quick-witted

fast-talking

clenched my fists

spectators

thrashed

tactics

raise our spirits

monk's cowl

good riddance

Worksheet: True or False

Answer the following questions with either the word 'true' or 'false'.

1. West Park Rovers are moving up the Amberton Youth League. _____
2. Bradley says that his cat could have scored the last goal. _____
3. Liam thinks he can fool the others by saying, "*Come on, we can still get back into this!*" _____
4. Liam doesn't know the hooded figure that appears on the touchline.

5. Newton Colts beat West Park Rovers 13–1. _____
6. Micky tries a few changes of tactics which helps the team improve.

7. Kitty is the only girl in the team. _____
8. The hooded figure was about the same height and build as Liam.

9. Kazim leaves the team because Bradley pushes him over? _____
10. Everyone cheered up when Bradley left the team. _____

Answers

1. West Park Rovers are moving up the Amberton Youth League. FALSE
2. Bradley says that his cat could have scored the last goal. FALSE
3. Liam thinks he can fool the others by saying, "*Come on, we can still get back into this!*" FALSE
4. Liam doesn't know the hooded figure that appears on the touchline.
TRUE
5. Newton Colts beat West Park Rovers 13-1. TRUE
6. Micky tries a few changes of tactics which helps the team improve.
FALSE
7. Kitty is the only girl in the team. FALSE
8. The hooded figure is about the same height and build as Liam. TRUE
9. Kazim leaves the team because Bradley pushes him over? FALSE
10. Everyone cheered up when Bradley left the team. FALSE

Picture Resources

These photographs show two very different football pitches.



www.bigstock.com · 4457512



www.bigstock.com · 81334682

Which game would you like to play in? Would you feel more nervous coming on the pitch in the game shown at the top or the game shown at the bottom? Why or why not?

Can you imagine the noise in the stadium in the bottom picture? Describe the atmosphere in both games.

This picture shows a half-time team talk.



www.bigstock.com · 35756180

Do you think this team are winning, losing or drawing? What makes you think that? What would you say to this team if you were the coach?

Resources

Websites

Test your football knowledge with this fun trivia quiz:

<http://www.funtrivia.com/trivia-quiz/ForChildren/UK-Football-for-Kids-179491.html>

Improve your own game with a skill drill from Arsenal's Junior Gunners:

http://www.arsenal.com/assets/files/documents/sep_13/gun_1380212284_97_Skill_School.mdAE.pdf

And watch this video to improve your shooting technique:

<http://www.arsenal.com/juniorgunners/soccer-schools/skills-videos-shooting-challenge>

Note to teachers: Every effort has been made by the Publishers to ensure that these websites are suitable for children, that they are of the highest educational value, and that they contain no inappropriate or offensive material. However, because of the nature of the Internet, it is impossible to guarantee that the content of these sites will not be altered. We strongly advise that Internet access is supervised by a responsible adult.

Books

Sports Skills: Football by Clive Gifford. Franklin Watts, 2015

CAN WE PUT IN ALAN'S OTHER FOOTBALL FICTION HERE? IF NOT, I HAVE OTHER NON-FICTION TO PUT IN.

Fine, put some of it in with other suggestions