

# RIDLEY'S ROVERS

## Teacher Resources, Week 2

### 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.
- **Key Words and Phrases:** This section provides a selection of key words from the chapter for use in a classroom literacy display or 'working wall'.
- **Glossary:** Here you will find definitions of words used in the chapter.
- **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 The Ridley Effect

1. Why do you think the author entitled this chapter *The Ridley Effect*?
2. Was Micky keen to have Ridley join the team? Find the evidence in the chapter to answer this question.
3. What personality traits do you think Ridley has that contribute to making her an excellent football player?
4. Kitty always 'bristled' when Micky says it was only boys who played football when he was young. What do you think the word bristled means here? Have a guess before you look it up in a dictionary.
5. What does Liam notice about Ridley's appearance? Find the descriptive simile the author uses to describe Ridley's hair. Did you find this simile helpful?

Teacher note: *dark and sleek as plain chocolate*

6. What simile does Liam remember when he looks at Ridley's eyes? Where did this simile come from?

Teacher note: *I read a description of a girl in a book once that said her eyes were "blue as a mountain stream".*

7. Why do you think the training session was the best the team had had in months? Go back to the chapter to work out the answer to this question.
8. Go back to the chapter and find the words and phrases that describe Ridley's positive attitude when practising football.

Teacher note: She acts with 'purpose and concentration', and she never does anything 'sloppily or lazily'.

9. Find the metaphor the author uses to describe how fast Ridley is at sprinting.  
Teacher note: *Ridley was most definitely a hare*
10. What simile does the author use to describe how Ridley looks after the busy training session? Go back to the chapter to find it. Can you think of an interesting simile to describe the way the rest of the team looks? Try.  
Teacher note: *as cool and fresh as if she'd just stepped out of a fridge*
11. How do we know Kitty isn't keen on Ridley? Find the evidence in the chapter to answer this question.
12. Why do you think Kitty says, "*There's something about her that's not right.*"?
13. Do you think Micky was right to let Callum play in the first half of the game against Stanning Town? Is there any clue in the chapter to explain why Micky does this?
14. Is Callum a good player? Find examples in the chapter to support your answer.
15. Why don't the team listen to Micky during the half-time interval?
16. What does Liam think is the reason for Stanning Town not starting the second half nearly as well as they started the first? Go back to the chapter to find out.
17. Why doesn't Kitty score the first goal in the second half? Go back to the chapter to find out. What sort of training do you think Kitty needs to help her score goals like this in the future?
18. What effect does their first goal have on the rest of the team? Find the evidence in the chapter to answer this question.
19. What do you think was so good about Ridley's second goal? Explain.

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20. Why does the defender get a red card?
21. Do you think Ridley is being rude, or do you think there is another reason why she, 'almost' snatches the ball from Liam?
22. What makes Liam stand near the far post and then make a run inside as Ridley takes the free kick? Go back to the chapter to find out.
23. Why do you think *all* the members of the West Park Rovers team play better in the second half of the match?
24. Does Ridley join in with the rest of the team coming off the pitch, jumping and shouting in celebration at having won the match?
25. Why do you think the author chose to end the chapter in the way he did?

## **Making the Choices and Voting**

### **Who is the stranger talking to Ridley?**

**Option 1: He's her dad, an ex professional footballer whose career was cut short due to injury and drinking. Divorced from Ridley's mother, he pursues Ridley, trying to get her trials at the top clubs. Ridley just wants him to leave her alone.**

From what we learn about Ridley in chapters 1 and 2, do you think this is a believable answer to the question of who is talking to Ridley at the end of chapter 2?

Do you think Ridley wants to play for top clubs?

**Option 2: He's her stepdad, a strict controlling man who forbids Ridley to play football and makes her life a misery. To play football she has had to lie about where she is.**

Are there things Ridley has done in chapter 1 or 2 that would make this a believable answer to the question of who she is talking to at the end of chapter 2? Might this account for the hoodie that she wears in chapter 1?

**Option 3: He's the manager of her last team and wants her back. She played for a top girls' team, but didn't like the manager's methods and got into trouble with the league management for her behaviour on the pitch.**

Can you imagine Ridley behaving badly on the pitch? Can you think of any reasons why she might do this? Does playing for a top girls' team explain her fitness and skill on the pitch?

## Writing Activities

Do you think Ridley is a nice person? What evidence is there in the chapter to answer this question? Write at least three fact sentences that you feel supports your answer to this question.

Imagine you are Callum. Write about your experience being the sub for West Park Rovers.

What do you think Micky is going to say to the team when they get back to the changing rooms after winning the match against Stanning Town? Write an extra paragraph about this that could be added to the end of chapter 2.

What do you think it takes to make a great football player or other sports person? Write a fact sentence for each of the qualities you think are needed in order for someone to become a succesful sportsperson.

Do you have a favourite sports personality – someone you admire and like to watch? Write about this person explaining why you like them so much.

Imagine you are a local newspaper journalist. Write your account of the cup match between West Park Rovers and Stanning Town. Make your account as exciting as you can, emphasising the high and low moments of the match,

naming the goal scorers and other notable players and congratulating the winners. Remember to give your article an eye-catching headline.

With a partner or in a small group, make a list of superlatives that you think a commentator might use when commentating on Ridley's performance in the match. For example – fastest, fittest, swiftest etc.

Imagine you are a football commentator for the West Park Rovers and Stanning Town match. What would you be saying as this match was being played? Write your own commentary for this match and then have a go at reading it out loud in commentator style.

Look at the options at the end of chapter 2. Write a brief outline of what you think is going to happen in chapter 3 based on one of these options.

## **Other Extension Activities**

### **Art Activities**

Illustrate what you think was the most exciting scene in chapter 2 of *Ridley's Rovers*. Write a caption to go with your picture.

Draw an action picture of Ridley playing in the West Park Rovers versus

Stanning Town cup match. Write a caption to go with your picture.

## **Discussion Activities**

Callum likes football but is not very good at it. He ends up always being sub and sitting on the sideline. What do you think is the most important aspect of sport – winning or taking part? Discuss this issue with other members of your class.

## **Research Activities**

Have you been watching the Paralympics? Using the Internet, find out about these games. Write three interesting fact sentences based on the information you discover.



## Key Words and Phrases

Here is a list of challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 2 of *Ridley's Rovers*: **sleek, competitive atmosphere, sloppily, sprinted, transform, our spirits lifted, triumph, hat trick, hard-to-read, glowering.**

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!

**sleek**

**competitive  
atmosphere**

**sloppily**

**sprinted**

**transform**

**our spirits lifted**

**triumph**

**hat trick**

**hard-to-read**

**glowering**

## Worksheet

### Puzzle: Anagrams

The letters in these words have been mixed up. Can you unscramble them to reveal each hidden word?

I Y R L D E

--	--	--	--	--	--

E M T A

--	--	--	--

T A C M H

--	--	--	--	--

O L F T L A O B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

O R C E S

--	--	--	--	--

L O G A

--	--	--	--

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## Answers

R	I	D	L	E	Y
---	---	---	---	---	---

T	E	A	M
---	---	---	---

M	A	T	C	H
---	---	---	---	---

F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

S	C	O	R	E
---	---	---	---	---

G	O	A	L
---	---	---	---

## Glossary

**AstroTurf** – artificial grass used for sports grounds

**birthmark** – blemish or mark on your skin that has been there since you were born

**keepy-uppies** – is the skill of juggling with a football using feet, lower legs, knees, chest, shoulders, and head, without allowing the ball to hit the ground

**Latin** – the language of ancient Rome

**penalty** – an advantage or point given to one team when their opponents break the rules

**red card** – a piece of red card shown by the referee to a player to signal that they are being sent off for breaking the rules

## Picture Resources

These pictures show some individual football skill drills.



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www.bigstock.com · 129673334

This picture shows a team football skill drill.



Do you think it is more important to train on your own or as part of a team in football? Or do you think that both types of training are important?

Think about some other sports. Name three sports that you think would be better to train for as part of a team, and three sports you think would be better to train for on your own. Give reasons for your answers.



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Look closely at this picture. Can you imagine where this woman is running?  
What does it smell like there? How does it sound?

Can you think up two similes to describe the woman or how she is moving?  
Look at how Liam describes Ridley to help you. Do the similes you think of  
make her seem like a nice person or not?

## Resources

### Websites

Make sure your passes are perfect with a challenge from Olivier Giroud and Laurent Koscielny:

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

So you want to make the team? Here are some great tips to prepare you for a trial:

<http://www.activekids.com/soccer/articles/7-soccer-tryout-tips-to-make-the-team>

All our favourite super star players were kids once! How much do you know about these stars' teenage days?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/teen-footballer-quiz>

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

*Girls Can't Play Football* by David Waugh. Constance Books, 2015

*The Everything Kids' Soccer Book* by Deborah W. Crisfield. Adams Media Corporation, 2015