

RIDLEY'S ROVERS

Teacher Resources, Week 4

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 4 Downs and Ups

1. Why do you think the author gave this chapter the title *Downs and Ups* instead of *Ups and Downs*? Explain.
2. What do you think is the meaning of the phrase *dropped his bombshell*? Explain. Do you think this sentence would have more impact if the author had written something like: Then he gave me the bad news?
3. How many bombshells does Liam get? What are each of the bombshells?
4. Why does Micky drop Liam from the match and not Ridley? Go back to the chapter to find the evidence to answer this question.
Teacher note: "*She's not my captain,*" Micky insisted.
5. How does Liam react to the news he is being made a sub at Saturday's match? How does he react to the news that Kitty is going to be captain? Find the evidence in the chapter to answer these questions.
Teacher note: *Now the shock had settled, I was furious.*
6. What did you think about Kitty's 'glum' expression? What do you think it tells us about how she is feeling?
7. What is Liam's first reaction to being made sub and having the captaincy taken from him? Why doesn't Liam do this?
8. Do you think Ridley wants Liam to be her friend? Explain.
9. Why does Liam want to be Ridley's friend? Do you think Ridley is 'keen to help' Liam? Why? Who do you think will benefit most in this friendship? Explain.

10. The author says Ridley's *look thawed into the thinnest crack of a smile*. What do you think the author is trying to tell us about Ridley here? Which word in this phrase do you think is most significant?
11. Where is the semi-final match against Mitcham United going to be played? Go back to the story to find out. Do you think Liam would have preferred an away match?
12. How does Liam feel standing on the touchline watching his team struggle? Go back to the chapter to find the significant word that answers this question.
Teacher note: *It was torture*
13. How does Liam feel as he watches Kitty play in his old midfield position and as captain? Do you think he should feel like this towards Kitty? Explain.
14. Why don't West park Rovers play very well in the first half? Go back to the chapter and find as many reasons as you can to answer this question.
15. What do you think the phrase *Mitcham sensed blood* means? Have a guess if you are not sure of the answer.
16. What does Ridley do that Liam doesn't like at all? Go back to the chapter to find out. How did you feel about Ridley *making Kitty look bad on purpose*?
17. Why does Micky put Liam on? Do you think this was the right decision?
18. Why is the Mitcham captain, 'anonymous' in the second half? Why do you think the author uses this word?
19. Could you picture Liam doing *a quick dart and a shuffle and a cheeky chip over the keeper*? What do you think about this description?
20. What do you think happened when Ridley 'nutmegged' the defender?

21. How many goals did Ridley score? What term does the author use to describe one player scoring this many goals? Go back to the chapter to find out.
22. Why does Liam smile when he sees Micky *bouncing about like a kangaroo on a trampoline*? What do we call this sort of description? Why do you think authors use similes in their writing?
23. Liam says the team 'pulled together' and 'pulled through'. How do you think this happened?
24. Why do you think the author ends chapter 4 with a question?

Making the Choice and Voting

What will happen in the run up to the Cup Final?

Option 1: In the week of the Cup Final, Ridley goes missing. Where has she gone? Will she come back? Will the team have to play their most important match without their star player.

Do you think Ridley disappearing and West Park Rovers playing the Cup Final without her will make for a winning chapter 5? Do you think that realistically the team would be able to win the match without her? Would you like to see them try?

Option 2: Tensions between Kitty and Ridley rise to boiling point and Liam has to take sides. But his decision could affect more than the outcome of the Cup Final. What will he decide?

What do you think the author means when he says Liam's decision *could affect more than the outcome of the Cup Final*? Can you predict what Liam will decide to do and what the outcome of his decision might be?

Option 3: Ridley stirs up a mutiny against Micky that means the team has no manager as they prepare for the Cup Final. Ridley's former manager offers to step in. But is he genuine? Will it help – or hinder – the team?

Can you imagine Ridley stirring up a mutiny? Can you guess why she would want to do this? Would you like to see what will happen if Ridley's former manager takes over the team? What problems can you foresee if this happens?

Writing Activities

Make a list of verbs that the author uses to describe the types of movements that occur in a football match. Add some more of your own. Write a definition for each of them. (For example, attack, dart, shuffle, chip, tackle, chase, pass, swerve.)

The author doesn't tell us how Kitty plays or feels in the second half of the match. Write another paragraph about Kitty's role in the second half that could be inserted into this chapter. Make sure your descriptions of Kitty also indicate how she is feeling at this time.

Look at the options at the end of the chapter. Write a brief summary of what you think is going to happen in the final chapter based on the option of your choice.

Do you think the author would make a good football commentator? Go back to the chapter and find the words and phrases that could prove he would. (pinpoint perfect, lashing the ball, on fire etc.) Now make up some good descriptive phrases of your own that you think would bring a football commentary alive.

Do you think making people 'look bad' is a form of bullying? Why does Ridley make Kitty look bad? Write a sentence for each reason that you can come up with.

Imagine you are one of the players on the Mitcham United team. Write your account of the game with West Park Rovers. Remember to describe how you feel as the action of the game takes place around you.

RIDLEY'S ROVERS by Alan Durant



Liam refers to Kitty as his 'best friend' and 'ex-best friend'. Friendships are special and important and need to be looked after and cared for. Write a list of suggestions for ways of nurturing friendship. You might want to discuss your ideas with a partner or in a small group before you start your writing.

Other Extension Activities

Art Activities

A drawing or painting of a person's face can capture more than just their features. Try drawing/painting a portrait of Liam, Ridley or Kitty that shows how they are feeling at a particular moment in chapter 4.

Discussion Activities

In chapter 4, Liam is furious when he learns he is going to be made sub in the next match. In a group, discuss some of the best ways to manage feelings of anger or frustration.

Ridley makes Kitty look bad in order to get Liam back in the game. Have you ever felt humiliated by the deliberate actions of someone else? In a small group, or with a partner, discuss your experiences.

Research Activities

Listen to any sports commentary – on the television, Internet, radio etc. Make a list of any colourful words, phrases or descriptions that the commentator uses.

Drama

Turn the scene at the beginning of chapter 4, between Liam and Micky, into a play script. Remember to set out your script in the correct way. When you are happy with your script, get two classmates to take the roles of Micky and Liam. Encourage your actors to read their parts clearly and add expression to the words they say.

Worksheet: Word Search

Complete the word search below containing names, words, phrases and football related vocabulary from chapter 4 of *Ridley's Rovers*.

L	D	G	F	F	Y	C	O	R	N	E	R	W	S	Q
L	I	X	C	S	C	O	R	E	Y	M	T	H	U	U
A	S	A	D	D	Q	F	J	W	B	K	H	V	B	K
B	V	F	M	F	G	Y	O	O	D	L	C	H	O	T
T	S	A	W	F	E	B	A	H	H	K	T	P	E	W
O	L	S	I	L	S	F	G	K	C	Z	A	N	V	C
O	H	G	D	W	Q	U	E	T	S	D	M	E	R	W
F	C	I	H	M	E	F	E	T	K	L	J	O	L	H
W	R	G	D	A	F	V	X	S	Q	Y	S	F	A	W
R	Q	H	J	E	D	C	M	O	K	S	V	B	O	H
B	M	E	F	T	S	D	L	L	A	B	F	Q	G	L
F	D	J	E	W	D	C	V	R	G	J	N	I	W	D
Q	E	L	I	U	Y	P	I	T	C	H	V	E	W	R
S	W	G	D	L	H	F	Y	R	F	H	P	U	C	G
Y	T	T	I	K	X	C	H	A	T	T	R	I	C	K

Words to find:

BALL CORNER CROSS CUP FOOTBALL GOAL KITTY LIAM
MATCH PITCH HAT TRICK RIDLEY SCORE SUB TEAM WIN

Answers

↘ L	D	G	F	F	Y	→ C	O	R	N	E	R	W	↓ S	Q
L	I	X	C	→ S	C	O	R	E	Y	M	T	H	U	U
A	S	A	D	D	Q	F	J	W	B	K	H	V	B	K
B	V	F	M	F	G	Y	O	O	D	L	C	H	O	T
T	S	A	W	F	E	B	A	H	H	K	T	P	E	W
O	L	S	I	L	S	F	G	K	C	Z	A	N	V	↙ C
O	H	G	D	W	Q	U	E	T	S	D	↑ M	E	R	W
↑ F	C	I	H	M	E	F	E	T	K	L	J	O	L	H
W	↗ R	G	D	A	F	V	X	S	Q	Y	S	F	A	W
R	Q	H	J	E	D	C	M	O	K	S	V	B	O	H
B	M	E	F	↑ T	S	D	L	L	A	↖ B	F	Q	↑ G	L
F	D	J	E	W	D	C	V	R	G	J	N	I	↖ W	D
Q	E	L	I	U	Y	→ P	I	T	C	H	V	E	W	R
S	W	G	D	L	H	F	Y	R	F	H	P	U	↖ C	G
Y	T	T	I	↖ K	X	C	→ H	A	T	T	R	I	C	K

↖BALL →CORNER ↙CROSS ←CUP ↑FOOTBALL ↑GOAL ←KITTY ↘LIAM

↑MATCH →PITCH →HAT TRICK ↗RIDLEY →SCORE ↓SUB ↑TEAM ←WIN

Key Words and Phrases

Here is a list of challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 4 of *Ridley's Rovers*: **dropped his bombshell, slouched, intrigued, anonymous, half-heartedly, followed my instincts, conceded a goal, astray.**

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!

dropped his
bombshell

slouched

intrigued

anonymous

half-heartedly

**followed my
instincts**

**conceded
a goal**

astray

Glossary

cross – to pass the ball from the side (wing) to the centre

midfield – middle of the pitch

sub – abbreviation for the word substitute. Someone who can take the place of another player.

touchline – either of the two lines that mark the side boundaries of the pitch

Picture Resources



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Micky drops Liam to the bench because of his secret training with Ridley. Both Micky and Kitty feel that Ridley is not being a team player.

Look at the picture above. How important do you feel it is for West Park Rovers to work out their differences as they look forward to playing in the Cup Final? Do you feel that team games can play a role in stopping bullying behaviour?



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In this chapter, Liam thinks that Ridley is deliberately trying to make Kitty look bad and he doesn't like it. Do you think that this is a kind of bullying? Why do you think Ridley is behaving like this? Do you think Liam should do anything about it?

Look at this picture closely. Do you think the girls in the background are being friendly? Give reasons for your answer. With a partner, talk about different places where we might come into contact with bullying and how we might protect ourselves from it.

Resources

Websites

Learn some trickery to beat the defence with a skill drill from Arsenal's Junior Gunners:

http://www.arsenal.com/assets/files/documents/feb_14/gun_1391601580_Flip_flap.pdf

And find out how football can help people face all sorts of problems, by reading about Daisy and how football has helped her:

<https://www.sse.co.uk/about-us/sponsorship/sport/daisy-kenny>

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

Bullies, Bigmouths and so-called Friends by Jenny Alexander. Hodder Children's Books, 2006

The Football Boy Wonder (The Charlie Fry series) by Martin Smith. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015