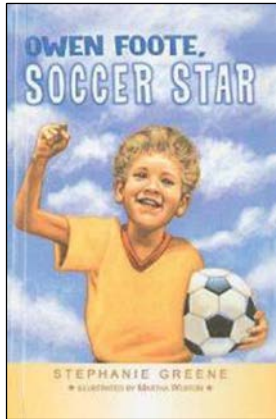


OWEN FOOTE, SOCCER STAR**CURRICULUM TIE-INS:**

Good sportsmanship
 Competition
 Loyalty
 Team
 Spirit
 Friendship

PLOT SUMMARY:

Owen loves playing soccer more than anything else. He convinces Joseph to play, too, even though Joseph isn't good at sports, the best player on the team starts making fun of Joseph for being a klutz. Owen has to decide whether to stand up for his friend, or desert him.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

1. Playing soccer makes Owen feel like he is "somebody." What does that mean, to feel like you're somebody? Is there something you like to do that gives you that feeling?
2. Why is Joseph worried about playing soccer? What things have happened to him in the past to make him nervous about it? Have you ever felt nervous about playing a sport or doing something else? What did you do to overcome it?
3. When Owen compares his mom's bread to the bread Anthony's mom makes, it makes Mrs. Foote feel bad. Have you ever been compared to someone else? Did you like it? Why, or why not?
4. When Owen watches Walter handle the ball at their first practice, it makes him nervous. Why?
5. Let's talk about loyalty. What does loyalty mean? Why is it hard for Owen to stay loyal to Joseph when Walter calls Joseph a klutz? If someone called your best friend a name, how do you think you would feel? Who, or what, are you loyal to?
6. Why does Owen get into a bad mood after their first practice? Is it just because Joseph did badly? Lydia tells Owen that Joseph should be in the bad mood and not Owen. How do you feel about this?
7. Anthony's parents give him money for every goal he scores. Do you think this is right? Why does Owen's mom say she feels sorry for Anthony? Would you feel sorry for Anthony, or would you envy him?
8. The secret tip that Clyde gives Owen involves tripping another player on the field. Do you think this is right? Are there any situations in which you feel it might be an okay thing to do?

9. Why does Owen get mad at Joseph for not protesting when Clyde pulls a trick on him?
10. Lead a discussion about the chapter in which Owen calls Dave on the phone. What does Dave learn from their conversation? Why do you think it was so hard for Owen to make that call? What do you think about the things Owen said?
11. What did you think about the way Owen went up to Walter after he'd tripped Walter during a scrimmage? Do you think that was a hard thing to do?

WORD HUNT:

It's fun to discover new words. See if your students can find the words below on the pages in the book where they're used. Then see if they can figure out what the word means by reading the sentence it's in. Let them choose several of the words to use in sentences of their own.

1. Ferocious..... p. 2
2. Disaster..... p. 9
3. Straddled..... p. 13
4. Clenched p. 21
5. Klutz p. 25
6. Habit..... p. 29
7. Brag p. 32
8. Adjustment..... p. 40
9. Dire..... p. 49
10. Heaving p. 59
11. Oozed..... p. 60
12. Flourish..... p. 84

CREATIVE WRITING IDEAS:

In first grade, Owen came up with the idea of a balloon machine that you put your enemies into. When they come out as balloons, you pop them. See if your students can come up with their own inventions. First, get them to talk about a problem they think needs solving. Then talk about creative ways they could invent to solve the problem.