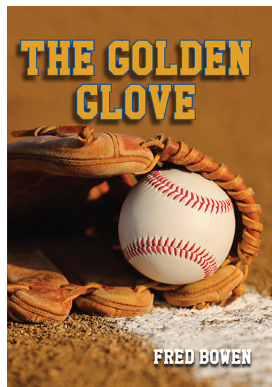


DISCUSSION GUIDE



The Golden Glove

Written by Fred Bowen

PB: 978-1-56145-505-8 | Also available in e-book

Ages 7–12 | Realistic Fiction | Series: Fred Bowen Sports Story
AR • RC • Lexile • F&P • GRL O; Gr 3

ALIGNED with
COMMON CORE
STANDARDS

ABOUT THE SERIES

Fred Bowen’s fast-paced middle-grade stories offer readers themes of competition, cooperation, facing change, gender roles, overcoming challenges, and new experiences. In addition, they feature play-by-play action, snappy dialogue, and engaging plots. Bowen’s books are not the usual sports-fiction fare; each book loops in a little sports history and includes back matter with fascinating glimpses into that history and the heroes who made it happen.

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Jamie loses his lucky glove, his parents refuse to buy him a new one. He thinks two guys in the neighborhood—the Porter brothers—stole it and he sets out to get it back. After a tense few minutes secretly rummaging through the boys’ garage, Jamie gives up looking for it. He ends up borrowing a glove, but it’s not the same as his old one and his self-confidence sinks. He begins to believe in himself when he discovers some interesting items in the back room of a local sports shop.

THEMES

Hard work | practice | determination | baseball history
mystery responsibility | personal growth

WRITING PROMPTS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

aligned with Common Core Reading Standards

DIRECTIONS

Use details from the text to support ALL of your responses.

CHAPTERS 1–3

How does the author let you know that Jamie cares a lot about his glove? Describe the baseball game in chapter 2. What are the Porter brothers like? How do Jamie and Alex feel about them?

CHAPTERS 4–6

How does Jamie feel about going into the park at night to look for his glove? How can you tell? Why does Alex think that the Porters stole Jamie’s glove? Could there be other reasons he thinks the Porters stole the glove? How does the author create tension in the scene in chapter 6 when the boys sneak into the Porters’ garage to look for Jamie’s glove?

CHAPTERS 7–9

How can you tell that Jamie’s younger brother Brad wants to leave the table in chapter 7? Why do you think he wants to leave? Describe the relationship between Jamie and Brad. Compare Jamie’s borrowed glove (described in chapter 8) to the one he lost (described in chapter 1). Compare how Jamie played with his “golden glove” in chapter 2 with the way he plays with the borrowed glove in chapter 9.

CHAPTERS 10–12

What is Pete Bikakis like? What details does the author include about him? How do Pete’s stories about early baseball gloves help Jamie? What does the Honus Wagner quote, “There ain’t much to being a ballplayer *if* you’re a ballplayer” mean? Why is the word “if” italicized? List some of Pete’s instructions about fielding.

CHAPTERS 13–15

Describe the game between the Giants and Braves in three or four words. Compare how Jamie fields the ball in the Braves game with Pete’s fielding instructions. What does this comparison tell you? Describe how Jamie’s feelings toward the Porters have changed over the course of the book. How did Jamie’s glove get lost? How do you know?

OVERALL QUESTION

In just a few words, write down what this whole story is about (the overall theme or big idea). Explain your response.

“THE REAL STORY” FOLLOW-UP QUESTION

How does the information in “The Real Story” relate to the theme or the plot of the book?

REVIEWS

“Bowen is quickly joining the ranks of today’s most popular sports-fiction authors...he skillfully interweaves fact and fiction and uses historical sports plays and concepts as a backdrop for the story.”

—*School Library Journal*

“Bowen is a natural when it comes to writing sports stories and informing his readers about the past. These books are perfect for kids ages 8 to 12.”

—*Newsday*

“[Bowen’s] pace is excellent and he has a knack for efficient evocation.”

—*Washington Post*

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Fred Bowen is the author of Peachtree’s popular Fred Bowen Sports Story series. A lifelong sports fanatic, he has coached youth league baseball, softball, soccer, and basketball. His kids’ sports column “The Score” appears each week in the KidsPost section of the *Washington Post*. Bowen lives in Maryland.

www.fredbowen.com

Peachtree Teacher’s Guide for
THE GOLDEN GLOVE
prepared by Peggy Jackson

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