


PEACHTREE
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Out of Bounds

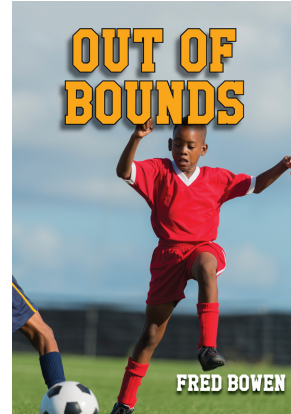
Written by Fred Bowen

HC: 978-1-56145-845-5

PB: 978-1-56145-894-3

Also available in e-book

Ages 7–12 | Realistic Fiction
Fred Bowen Sports Stories Series
AR • AC • Lexile • F&P • GRL Q; Gr 4



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

Nate, an eighth grader, and the rest of his teammates are competitive, especially when it comes to playing against their rivals, the Monarchs. They want to win so badly that they’re willing to root against the Monarchs when they play other teams. Something happens though, and Nate starts feeling uncomfortable about their win-at-any-cost attitude. But what can he do about it? He’s just one guy on the team.

THEMES

Sportsmanship | Attitudes about winning
Friendship | Leadership
Peer pressure | Sports | Soccer

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 is Aunt Lizzie different from Nate’s parents? How does Nate act around Aunt Lizzie? How does Nate react to Aunt Lizzie’s play when she purposely kicks the ball out of bounds?

CHAPTERS 4–6

Describe the Strikers as a team. Compare Nate and Sergio’s attitudes toward winning and competition. Describe Hunter and the other Monarchs. Compare them with Nate and his teammates.

CHAPTERS 7–9

Compare Nate and Aunt Lizzie’s attitudes toward winning and competition. Lizzie tells Nate, “You want to win, but you want to win the right way.” What does she mean by that? What is Nate’s reaction to her advice? How does Nate feel about rooting against the Monarchs?

CHAPTERS 10–12

Why do you think Nate kicks the ball out of bounds? What is Sergio’s reaction to the play? What is the

Monarchs' reaction? How does Nate feel about the play *after* the game? How is his feeling about the play changing? How does Aunt Lizzie's soccer video affect Nate's feeling about the play?

CHAPTERS 13–15

Sergio does not think that the Monarchs will try to win their game against the Devils. Why not? Hunter tells Nate, "We want to beat you not cheat you." What does Hunter mean by that? How does Hunter feel about Nate's decision to kick the ball out of bounds?

CHAPTERS 16–17

Nate says at the end of the book, "Things turned out all right." What does he mean by that? What are the "things" he is talking about?

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 whole story?

REVIEWS

"Bowen tucks in plenty of soccer action—plus a chocolate chip cookie recipe—and closes with some real-life sports incidents that exemplify the principle he wants to highlight."

—*Booklist Online*

AWARDS

- Kansas State Reading Circle Recommended Reading List (intermediate)—Kansas National Education Association

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

Available in the Fred Bowen Sports Story series

BASEBALL:

Dugout Rivals
The Golden Glove
The Kid Coach
Lucky Enough
Perfect Game
Playoff Dreams
Throwing Heat
T.J.'s Secret Pitch
Winners Take All

BASKETBALL:

The Final Cut
Full Court Fever
Hardcourt Comeback
Off the Rim
On the Line
Outside Shot
Real Hoops

SOCCER:

Go for the Goal!
Out of Bounds
Soccer Team Upset

FOOTBALL:

Double Reverse
Quarterback Season
Speed Demon
Touchdown Trouble



PEACHTREE

Discussion Guide prepared by Peggy Jackson

Copyright ©2019 by Peachtree Publishing Company Inc. All rights reserved. For instructional uses only and not for resale. Except for the printing of complete pages, with the copyright notice—no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other without written permission. Requests for permission to use any section of the work should be mailed to: Permissions Department, Peachtree Publishing Company Inc., 1700 Chattahoochee Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30318-2112.