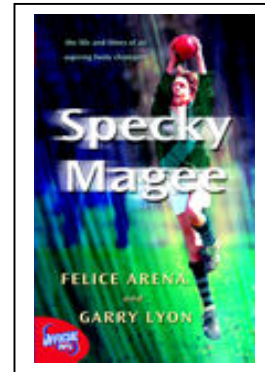


SPECKY MAGEE

Felice Arena
Garry Lyon

0207198292



TEACHING NOTES

Prepared by Felice Arena

Story:

Twelve year old Aussie Rules footy champion Simon Magee ('Specky') yearns for his father to watch him play the game he loves so much.'

Ideal Class Level: Year 5 to Year 7

Themes covered in the story:

Father/Son relationship, Friendship, Adoption, Family, Talent, Sport, Football, Emotion, Acceptance

Chapter One to Three:

Saturday Play; Footy Blood; Footyhead

Specky has a talent for taking spec-tacular marks.

List five talents that you have or would like to have –(doesn't need to be a sporting talent – be as creative as you like) eg. *Burping out words; Eating 10 meat pies in less than a minute.*

Write about how one of these talents has served you in the past.

Imagine you are a reporter interviewing a famous person. You mention the talent they are known for in your first question but also ask them about any secret talents they may have. e.g. *"Russell Crowe, you obviously have a talent for acting, do you have any other talents?"* RC *"Yes, I love to knit jumpers"*.

Continue the interview, asking five more questions and writing out the celebrity's answers. Pick any famous person and make up a secret talent for them.

Specky is passionate about footy, while his father is passionate about his art gallery. What is your father or mother passionate about that you're not?

Put yourself in their shoes (pretend you are them) and write about why you love whatever you are passionate about, so much.

Specky loves to surf the net – especially checking out the footy websites. What is your favourite website? Write a review about it explaining why other kids should check it out? What makes it so good?

Chapter Four to Six.

Photo Blues; Could Be; Question Time.

Who do you think dressed baby Specky in footy gear?
What would you do if you were Specky?

Specky's computer screen name is Footyhead.
Make up your own 'footy theme' screen name.

Write out a conversation with the person seated next to you as if you were online. Make sure to use both your screen names. Document your conversation.

Topic: Footy.

Research Adoption Lesson: Search for any famous person who was adopted – using computers in class or library time.

Chapter Seven to Nine.

Sensational Specky; More Important?; The Truth

Parent or Child Role Play:

Get student up in front of class to act as a parent or child. For one minute the student should talk, non-stop about the time his or her parent/child made them feel proud.

Take class outside (with a football) and re-enact Coach Pappas's kicking competition. Divide students into pairs. E.g. Boy and Girl.

Specky's dad was so embarrassed by Specky ruining his important sculpture exhibition. Write about a time when someone in your family was embarrassed by *you* and vice versa (when *they* embarrassed you).

Have you ever seen either of your parents or anyone really cry?

Write a paragraph or two, describing the events just before you saw them crying and how it resolved.

NB. It can be tears of joy!

Chapter Ten to Twelve.

Adopted!; Chriskicks; Simmo.

Write down (in point form) as many words as you can in 10 minutes to do with a football match. E.g. scarf, rain, mud, ball, cheers, fans...etc.

Repeat the exercise, but change the topic. E.g. adoption

Imagine you are Simmo's dad. Write ten reasons why Coach Pappas should play him in Specky's position.

Chapter Thirteen to Fifteen

His Dream; Magnificent MCG; Specky's Search

Specky loves to spend time with his friend Danny and his big Italian family. Find out as much as you can about a friend of yours and his/her family. Names of brothers and sisters, parents, their ages, occupation, favourite TV shows, food, music, etc...

Name a sports star game: The entire class sits in a large circle – each student is required to name a sports star. If they can't think of one in less than five seconds, they're out – they are also eliminated if they repeat a sports star's name. Last one left is the winner.

Chapter Sixteen to Eighteen

Dad?; Bully Play; Christina's Carlton

Specky reads the article 'Hello Daddy?' suggested by Christina. Write three shock newspaper headings that would make people stop and read.

E.g. Swim Star Drowns! Shark Attack in St Kilda! Home and Away role for Queen!

Read out your headings to the rest of the class.

Chapter Nineteen to Twenty Two

Footy Fame? Bob; Forever Father

Specky is excited and nervous about being a studio audience member at Sensational Stuff. Describe in a few words how you would feel about being an audience member at a famous sports show.

Write an idea for your own Sports Show.

Which personalities would you like to see run the Show?

Rewrite the footy fame chapter into a script.

Choose students to re-enact the chapter.

Give reading performance to the class.

Create/draw a poster promoting your favourite football team.

What other questions would you ask Bob, if you were Specky?

Write five questions.

Have class discussion – about where you think the story will go from here...then read last chapter to the class.