



PEACHTREE

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

Includes Common Core Standards Correlations

## Double Reverse

Written by Fred Bowen

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Also available in e-book

Ages 7–12 | Realistic Fiction

AR • RC • 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

Jesse’s freshman football team is in big trouble. The Panthers don’t have anybody who can pass the ball! Jesse is not big and strong like his brother Jay, who was the star quarterback on Panthers varsity last year. Jesse is short and he definitely can’t throw the ball like his brother. Nobody on his team can. Maybe it’s time for a brand new plan? Something even a little crazy...like Jesse playing quarterback? At least he’s fast and knows all the plays. What have the Panthers got to lose?

### THEMES

Friendship | Sports | Football

Problems with judging people by their appearances  
Being open to change | Working hard to achieve goals

### 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 show that Henry, the new team quarterback, is not very good? Why is Jesse surprised that Henry is having trouble playing quarterback? Jesse’s friend Savannah plays soccer. Why did her coach make her the goalkeeper?

#### CHAPTERS 4–6

Why does Jay think Jesse could be a good quarterback? Why does Jesse doubt his ability to be a good quarterback? Jesse senses something has changed between him and his brother Jay. What do you think has changed?

#### CHAPTERS 7–9

Why does Coach Vittone mention pro football player Fran Tarkenton? Name two of Jesse’s skills that would make him a good quarterback. Why does Jesse suggest Savannah should be the team’s kicker? Why do Quinn and Langston think that’s a bad idea?

## CHAPTERS 10–12

What makes the coaches change their minds about using Savannah as a kicker? Compare and contrast how the Franklin team plays now and the way the team played in chapter 4. What has improved? What else has changed?

## CHAPTERS 13–15

Jesse is drawing football plays in study hall. What does that tell you about Jesse? At the end of chapter 14 Jesse creates a play that Quinn, Langston, and Savannah think is great. Why do you think the author keeps that play a secret from the reader?

## CHAPTERS 16–17

The secret play that Jesse planned (in chapter 14) works! Who made the winning touchdown? Why do you think Jesse planned for that player to run for the touchdown? Now think about the whole story: How did things turn out differently than expected for Jesse? for his brother Jay?

## 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 QUESTIONS

What more did you learn about Fran Tarkenton? How does the information in “The Real Story” relate to the theme or the plot of the book?

## REVIEWS

“...[T]his tale of confident persistence will ring true for all the kids who have been told they’re too small or too female... An apt choice to surprise a young football fan with the power of words.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Filled with descriptions of the games, practices, and plays, the quick plot and likable characters will appeal to football fans.... [A] solid choice for struggling readers.”

—*Booklist Online*

“Keep your eye on the ball in this high-fun, high-action sports tale.”

—*Tales Told Tall*

“Bowen does fantastic sports books... He is definitely the new Matt Christopher.”

—*YA Books Central*

## 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](http://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*



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