



PEACHTREE

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

Includes Common Core Standards Correlations

## Lucky Enough

Written by Fred Bowen

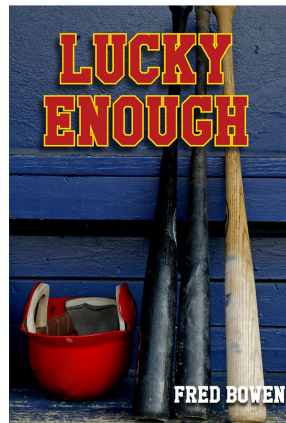
HC: 978-1-56145-957-5

PB: 978-1-56145-958-2

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

Trey Thompson is pumped when he makes the Ravens, a travel baseball team. Trey is full of superstitions—he never steps on a baseline, he touches all the corners of home plate before every at bat, and he’s convinced he made the Ravens because of his “lucky charm”—a piece of blue sea glass. When Trey loses his lucky charm his hitting and fielding start to slip. How can he get his magic back?

### THEMES

Superstitions | Luck | Hard work | Change  
Determination | Teammates | Family | Friends

### 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

- What do we learn about Trey in chapter 1?
- What does the catcher on the Ravens, Peter Rodriguez, think about Trey’s superstitions? How can you tell?
- What was Trey’s grandmother like? How did Trey feel about her?

#### CHAPTERS 4–6

- What words would you use to describe Trey and his mother and how they live? What details indicate this?
- Compare Trey as a baseball player and as a student. How is he the same? How is he different? Does he have superstitions in both roles? How can you tell?

#### CHAPTERS 7–9

- Coach Locke says Trey looks like he “belonged out there.” What does Coach Locke mean by that expression?
- What happened during the game against the Chiefs that would make Coach Locke think that way?

- Describe Mr. Kiley. What does he think about baseball players and their superstitions? How can you tell?

### CHAPTERS 10–12

- Use two or three words to describe Uncle Dave. Explain why you chose those words.
- How do Uncle Dave and Trey’s mother remember Trey’s grandmother? How are their memories different from Trey’s?
- How does Trey’s bumping into Malik and his father at the park change Trey’s thinking? How can you tell?

### CHAPTERS 13–15

- How is Trey’s attitude toward his superstitions changing? How can you tell?
- Compare how Trey plays in the game in chapters 13 and 15 to how he plays in earlier games.
- Compare how Trey prepares for the test with Cole in chapter 14 to how he prepared in chapter 5.

### CHAPTERS 16–17

- Mr. Kiley did not return Trey’s sea glass right after he found it. What do you think were his reasons for waiting? Why do you say that?
- How has Trey’s attitude toward luck changed throughout the book?
- The book is called “Lucky Enough”—what does that phrase mean?

### 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

Make a list of Trey’s superstitions in the book. Then make a list of the superstitions of the ballplayers and coaches mentioned in The Real Story. Which ones are the similar or the same? Which ones are different?

### REVIEWS

“A former kids’ baseball coach and the writer of a *Washington Post* sports column for young readers, Bowen adds an entertaining note on baseball superstitions.... The straightforward story will appeal to young players as well as older ones intimidated by longer novels.”

—*Booklist*

“Bowen employs nearly every bit of applicable baseball lingo, with detailed descriptions of practicing and playing the games... A good read for youngsters who know and love the game.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“This quick and to-the-point story is a solid choice for upper elementary readers as well as middle school collections looking to boost their hi-lo offerings.”

—*School Library Journal*

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### 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)

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