

## Soccer Trophy Mystery

Written by Fred Bowen

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Ages 7–12 | Realistic Fiction

### 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

**Fred Bowen is back with more soccer action—and a mystery—in his newest *Sports Story*, perfect for fans of Mike Lupica and Tim Green.**

Twins Aiden and Ava play soccer in the county under-14 boys and girls leagues. They want their teams to win the leagues so their team names will be on the County Trophies. Aiden and Ava learn that the original championship trophy disappeared from the county library years ago and has never been recovered. Aiden and Ava, along with their friend Daniel, decide they want to solve the mystery of the missing soccer trophy. In trying to solve the mystery, they discover some surprising things about their hometown, its people, and its past.

### THEMES

Mystery | Discovery | Secrets | Friends |  
Teammates | Family | Persistence | The Past



### Writing Prompts and Discussion Questions

#### Directions

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

#### Chapters 1–3

- Compare Aiden and Ava as soccer players. Who is better? How do you know? What kind of fan is Aiden and Ava’s mother? Why are Aiden and Daniel excited about the soccer trophy mystery? Is Ava excited? How can you tell? What information about the mystery do the three friends learn from Ms. Salvadore?

#### Chapters 4–6

- Compare and contrast Aiden and Ava’s mother and father. Who seems more strict? How can you tell? Use three words to describe Aiden and Ava’s grandmother (Nana). What new clues about the soccer trophy mystery do Aiden and Ava learn from talking with their grandmother?

## Chapters 7–9

- What new clues about the soccer trophy mystery do Aiden, Ava, and Daniel learn from their research at the library? What do they learn about their hometown? What is Chief Palmer like? How can you tell? What does Chief Palmer say was missing from his soccer trophy mystery investigation years ago? What new clues about the mystery do Aiden and Ava learn (or relearn) from Chief Palmer?

## Chapters 10–12

- Compare and contrast Chief Palmer and Mr. Langston. How are they different? Compare and contrast Chief Palmer and Mr. Langston's homes and pets. Use three words to describe the game between the Thunder and the Dragons. How was that game different from the Thunder's game with the Wolfpack in Chapter 7?

## Chapters 13–15

- What new clues do Aiden and Ava find during their library research in Chapter 13? Who solves the mystery first? How can you tell? Why do you think that person solved the mystery first? Aiden and Ava seem nervous about going up into the attic. Why? How can you tell? Why was the trophy stolen? Looking back, what were the clues the reader learned about the thieves' motives?

## Chapters 16–17

- What is Chief Palmer's solution for the missing soccer trophy? What are his reasons to support this solution? Does Aiden and Ava's family think it is a good solution? How can you tell? Does the solution seem fair? If not, can you think of another solution that would be better? Do you think Aiden and Ava will ever tell Daniel their secret about the soccer trophy mystery?

## Overall Question

- In just a few words, write down what the story is all about (the overall theme or big idea). Explain your answer.

## The Real Story

- What parts of the story about the disappearance of the World Cup are in the Real Story chapter that were not in Daniel's explanation in Chapter 6? What do you think happened to the World Cup? Why do you think that?
- Are women and girls' sports more popular than they were in 1973 (when Title IX was passed)? How do you know? Are women's sports as popular as men's sports? If not, why not?

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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*. Fred lives in Maryland. For more, visit [FredBowen.com](http://FredBowen.com).

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PEACHTREE

Discussion Guide prepared by Fred Bowen

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