



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower primary
(ages 6–9; years 1 to 3)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Health and Physical Education
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Reading and learning about football
- Reading a book set in a school environment
- Understanding the importance of friendship and teamwork
- As an example of humorous writing
- For enjoyment

THEMES

- Football
- Friendship, Teamwork and Winning
- Opposites

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

PUBLICATION DETAILS

The Champion Charlies 1: The Mix-Up
9780143791249 (paperback);
9780143791256 (ebook)

The Champion Charlies 2: Boot It
9780143791263 (paperback);
9780143791270 (ebook)

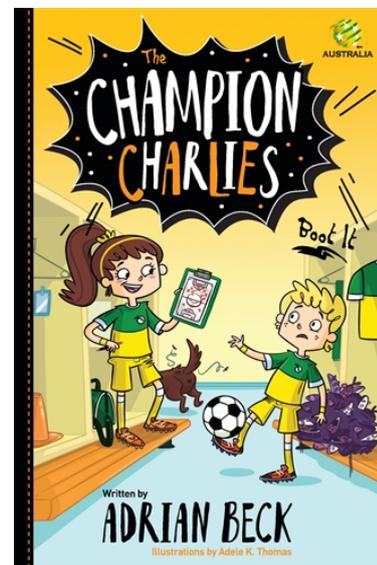
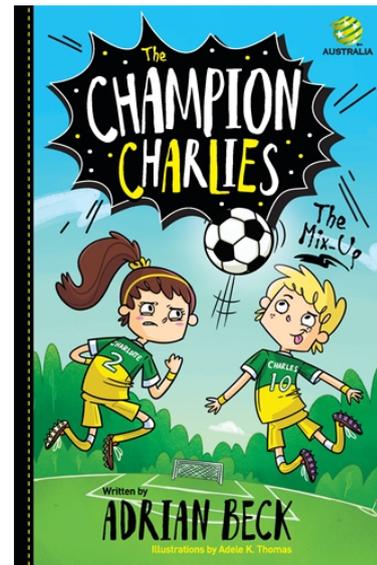
The Champion Charlies 3: The Knockout Cup
9780143791287 (paperback);
9780143791294 (ebook)

The Champion Charlies 4: The Grand Finale
9780143791300 (paperback);
9780143791317 (ebook)

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The Champion Charlies Adrian Beck

PLOT SUMMARY

Charles was the best player in the boys' football team. Charlotte was the best player in the girls' side. But this season they're both playing in the same mixed team. Is there room for two Champion Charlies on one side? And can they get past their rivalry to help form the greatest football team Jindaberg Primary has ever seen?

With prankster teammates, a karaoke coach, dancing dads and an arch rival with an axe to grind, the Champion Charlies soon learn that achieving success is not going to be easy . . . but it sure will be fun!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adrian Beck is a TV producer and has worked on shows such as *The Footy Show*, *The Logie Awards*, *Carols by Candlelight*, *Prank Patrol* and *Kids' WB*. He is the author of the Kick it to Nick series, a collaboration with AFL Hall of Famer Shane Crawford, and *Dale* in the Stuff Happens series.

ABOUT FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

Football Federation Australia (FFA) is the governing body of football in Australia and is a member of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the international governing body for football.

WRITING STYLE

The Champion Charlies series is written in the third person in a humorous tone. The text features many short sentences, asides and snappy lines of dialogue which create a sense of pace and indicate that the story is aimed at a primary school-aged audience.

Short action scenes describing football games and other antics occur frequently and, again, create a strong sense of pace.

Sound effects, adjectives and key phrases are highlighted in the story through the use of a feature font. This adds emphasis and often highlights the humour in certain situations.

The vernacular of Charles also creates an additional layer of humour as he frequently misunderstands things and uses certain words incorrectly.

Hyperbole is used by the writer to create larger-than-life characters – particularly in the case of secondary characters such as Mr Hyants, Lenny Lincoln and Baldock. Exaggeration is also present in some of the action, despite the story taking place in a familiar environment.

Lists within the text, and fact files at the end of chapters, are used to break up the story and engage readers on a variety of levels. The facts also serve to educate the reader on many aspects of football, both Australian and international.

LAYOUT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

As mentioned above, lists and fun fact pages break up the body text of the story. Feature fonts are also used to highlight certain words and phrases, as well as creating an interesting look for the book.

The body text itself is laid out spaciouly with line breaks between each paragraph.

A number of illustrations feature throughout the text, depicting key scenes and characters in the story. Football elements such as bouncing balls are used throughout the design and give the pages an active and fun aesthetic.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the book is called *The Champion Charlies*? Who are the characters on the front cover?
2. Book 1 is called *The Mix-Up*, what do you think might happen in the story?

DISCUSSION TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

Football

As suggested by the covers, football is the focus of the books. Both the main characters, Charles (CJ) and Charlotte are football fanatics and the action revolves around their school football team's first season playing as a mixed team. As well as the practice sessions and games the team plays, football action is also present in the form of professional games by Australian and A-League teams. The fun facts at the end of some chapters also introduce historical and international facts about football – showing that it truly is a world game.

Questions

1. Does your school have a football team? If so, is there a boys' and a girls' team, or are they mixed?
2. How many people in your class play football outside of school?
3. Do you know why football is normally called soccer in Australia?

Activities

1. Create a football mind map – using the word 'football' at the centre, add any other words, names or phrases that relate to football around it. For example you could put the names of players, teams, skills etc.
2. Count how many people in the class play football and how many don't. Then create a pie chart showing the two groups. Which group is bigger?

Friendship

Friendship plays an important role in *The Champion Charlies* books. At the beginning of book 1 we see that CJ and Charlotte aren't really friends – their personalities are so different that they don't really get along despite them both playing soccer. We also learn



that Benji is CJ's best friend and Lexi is pretty much Charlotte's best friend.

The boys and the girls seem to be against each other at the start of the story, but this changes when CJ doesn't respect Benji's ability and desire to play on the school team. Throughout the course of the story, CJ begins to understand that his actions have hurt his friend's feelings and that, perhaps, Charlotte isn't actually that bad – they both want to play football and win after all!

Charlotte also learns how to be a better friend and comes to see the importance of putting aside other priorities to help a friend in need.

Questions

1. What qualities do you think make a good friend?
2. Do you think it is important to be friends with people you are on a team with? Why?

Activities

1. Using the word 'friendship' make an acrostic where each letter describes a quality you think is important for a friend. For example, 'f' could stand for 'fun'.

Teamwork

The topic of teamwork can be linked to that of friendship as both CJ and Charlotte realise they need to work together in order for the Jets to have any chance of success on the field. In turn, this leads to their friendship developing.

There is a pivotal moment in the story where CJ changes his mind about sharing the role of captain. This happens after seeing the Matilda's play and hearing Sam Kerr say 'We just pull together, try to use everyone's different skills and face every challenge as a team.' (p. 94)

Although it takes some adjustment for CJ and Charlotte to co-captain, and bring the players from the boys' and girls' sides together, the Jets end up in a much better position than they would have without teamwork.

Questions

1. What do you think might have happened to the Jindaberg Jets if CJ and Charlotte hadn't started working together and playing as a team?
2. What are some famous sporting teams?

Activities

1. Divide a piece of paper into two columns and write a list of team sports and a list of individual sports. Which type of sport appeals to you more? Why?

2. Make up a new sport that has some similarities to football but is different in many other ways. What would you call your sport? Think about things like how many players would be on a team, what the new rules might be and how the scoring would work.

Winning

In book 2, *Boot It*, both CJ and Charlotte are focused on winning, but in different ways. CJ is put off his game by losing his special boots, which he thinks are what help him score goals. Charlotte on the other hand is focused on the team training as much as possible so that they can beat their opponents. This focus on winning or scoring goals doesn't help either players', or the team's, performance on the field and eventually Charlotte realises that perhaps having fun while playing football is more important than the end result. Likewise, Charles realises there are other things, such as family and friends, that are more important than scoring goals.

Questions

1. Have you ever wanted to win something so bad that you didn't enjoy the process leading up to it?

Activities

1. In the story, the Jets come up with some winning moves based on things that relate to Charlotte's baby sister. Come up with your own list of fun names for different football plays. They don't have to be baby-related, they could be about anything! Describe what the play would involve.

Opposites

Right from the start of book 1 it is clear to see that CJ and Charlotte are complete opposites, except for their love of football, of course. CJ never does his homework, whereas Charlotte always does hers. CJ often misbehaves in class, but Charlotte doesn't. CJ is messy and Charlotte is tidy – and so on.

Questions

1. Do you think the books would be as fun if CJ and Charlotte had similar personalities?
2. Do you know what an antonym is?

Activities

1. Make a list of all ways CJ and Charlotte are opposite to each other.
2. Using the character of Benji, come up with a fictional character that is opposite to him. Write a paragraph about your fictional character and the ways he is different to Benji.



WORKSHEET: SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Charles has a very messy room! Can you spot six differences between these two pictures?



1. Soccer ball on Cl's jumper is missing
2. Autographs on the cap on the floor are missing
3. Extra fish on floor
4. Picture on wall is straight
5. Soldier toy is missing sword
6. Small picture above toy soldier is missing



WORKSHEET: TOP FIVE LISTS

The character of Benji in the book loves to make funny lists – about anything! Using these topics, can you make your own top five lists?

TOP FIVE REASONS FOOTBALL IS THE BEST SPORT EVER
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

TOP FIVE WAYS TO ANNOY YOUR SIBLING/S
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

TOP FIVE ICE-CREAM FLAVOURS THAT DON'T EXIST BUT SHOULD
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
The Champion Charlies 1: The Mix-Up	Adrian Beck	9780143791249	1-3	\$14.99		
The Champion Charlies 2: Boot It	Adrian Beck	9780143791263	1-3	\$14.99		
The Champion Charlies 3: The Knockout Cup	Adrian Beck	9780143791287	1-3	\$14.99		
The Champion Charlies 4: The Grand Finale	Adrian Beck	9780143791300	1-3	\$14.99		
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