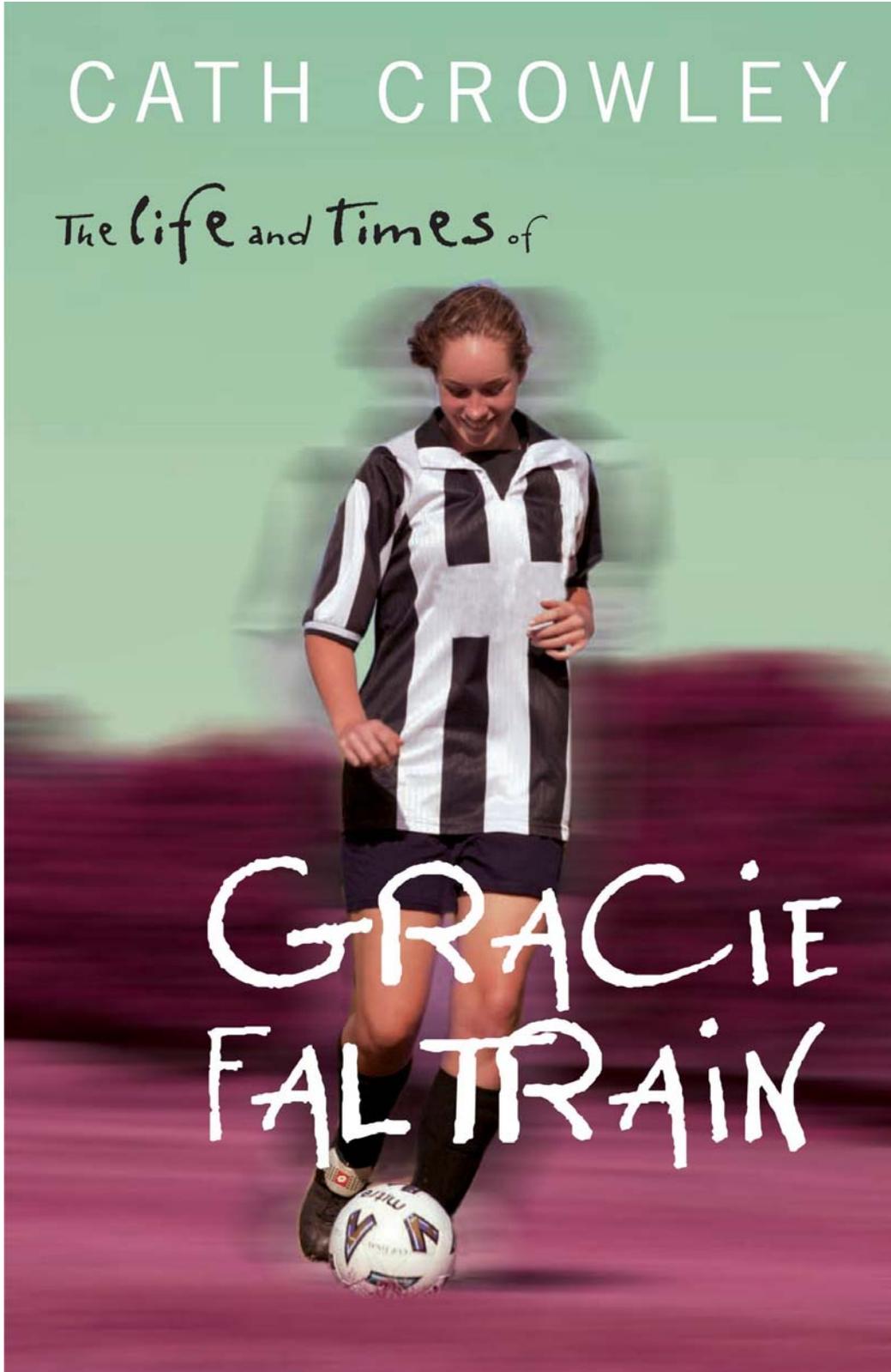




THE LIFE & TIMES OF GRACIE FALTRAIN

CATH CROWLEY

The life and times of



PAN MACMILLAN AUSTRALIA GIVES PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY
TEXT FROM THESE TEACHERS' NOTES.



CATH CROWLEY

The Life & Times of Gracie Faltrain Teachers' Notes

These teachers' notes are divided into four sections:

SECTION ONE

- **FROM THE BOOK** questions are brief comprehension activities that you may choose to use as homework or at the completion of each segment.

SECTION TWO

- **EXTENDED QUESTIONS** allow students to probe further into some of the significant events or themes that exist within the book.

SECTION THREE

- **EXTENDED TASKS** involve tasks that may be suitable for assessment purposes such as creative writing and relating the themes to the students.

SECTION FOUR

- **ESSAY QUESTIONS** allow for an overview of the text and may be used as assessment tasks.



THE LIFE & TIMES OF GRACIE FALTRAIN

Kick - off



SECTION ONE: From The Book

Why did Martin's mum leave?

Why don't Gracie and Annabelle like each other?

Why is Gracie's dad away from home so much?

SECTION TWO: Extended Questions

"There's nothing good in Jane's leaving." (p.37)

What do you think? Was there anything positive that came out of Jane moving away?

Chapter 8 mentions a number of problems people perceive about Gracie. Do you think all these problems are true? Is any one of these more significant than the others?

SECTION THREE: Extended Tasks

Gracie describes her first match:

"On that day I grew wings." (p.6)

Can you think of a time in your life that you have felt this way? What happened and why did it make you feel so good?

"This is a boy's team. And you're a girl." (p.3)

The coach didn't think that Gracie had what it takes to be a member of the soccer team. What are other examples of impediments in life that hinder us? Try not to think just about gender but other characteristics as well.

"Now she doesn't care if we win as long as she does" (p.18)

Is there a difference between the two ways of winning? What does Andrew Flemming mean in this statement?



CATH CROWLEY

Time out due to injury



SECTION ONE: From The Book

What is Gracie's new nickname at school?

Where does Gracie go to hide during lunchtime?

What is different about the way Gracie felt during the match in Chapter 17?

SECTION TWO: Extended Questions

"I've just had enough of soccer." (p.119)

When Gracie quits the soccer team is this the real reason, or is it more about a bruised ego? Why do you think Gracie quit the team?

SECTION THREE: Extended Tasks

"Geez, Faltrain, I don't know. Haven't you got a girl to talk to?" (p.111)

Gracie's friendship with Jane is different to her relationship with Martin. What do the two friendships offer and do you think one is more significant than the other?



THE LIFE & TIMES OF GRACIE FALTRAIN

The game from the bench



SECTION ONE: From The Book

Why does Gracie go to the tin shed?

How does Alyce respond to Susan's invitation?

What does Helen do to help her business?

SECTION TWO: Extended Questions

Do you think Gracie was oblivious to what was happening to her parents, or was she just refusing to see the obvious?

SECTION THREE: Extended Tasks

Gracie and Alyce discover that they have many things in common, and they become firm friends. Find someone in the classroom that you don't know that well and find out what similarities you have. It might be family, interests, experiences – you may be surprised at how much you have in common.

"There's no such thing as fate. Fatal yes, Fate no." (p.128)

What do you think? Does fate exist? Can you think of an example where fate has played a part in your life?



CATH CROWLEY

Back in play



SECTION ONE: From The Book

What has Gracie forgotten to do that she is upset about?

What does Martin decide he won't do after the championships?

Who are the friendly faces that Gracie sees in the crowd?

SECTION TWO: Extended Questions

The first match of the championships doesn't go well. What are the team doing that is letting them down?

SECTION THREE: Extended Tasks

Both Martin and Gracie have a parent that is not at home – Martin's mum left years ago, and Gracie's dad is rarely at home. Compare their situations noting three aspects of their family life that are similar, and three that are different.



THE LIFE & TIMES OF GRACIE FALTRAIN

Extra time



SECTION ONE: From The Book

Do Gracie's parents decide to get back together?

Why does Gracie think Martin hit the defender from the other team?

Does the team make it to the final?

SECTION TWO: Extended Questions

Look at the last paragraph on p. 223.

"Did our team kick it? You bet. Is it headed for the goal? Absolutely. Does it go in? Who cares? We're all in it together. We've already won."

What has Gracie learnt about being on a team throughout this book?

SECTION THREE: Extended Tasks

Was there a difference between the way Gracie played soccer at the beginning of the book and at the end? Write an article for the local paper recounting the first and last match described in the book.



CATH CROWLEY

SECTION FOUR: Essay Questions

1. Mrs Faltrain comments in the book that Gracie must learn to solve her own problems. What does Gracie learn by the end of the book?
2. Gracie and Annabelle have more similarities than differences. Discuss.
3. To really live you must make mistakes. Discuss with reference to at least two characters in the book.
4. *"The little kid who ran out onto that field three years ago had guts. If you find her, let me know."* (p.120)
What role does courage have in Gracie's life?
5. *"Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."*
Discuss in relation to Gracie's relationship with Jane, Nick and her dad.



THE LIFE & TIMES OF GRACIE FALTRAIN

ANSWERS

KICK OFF

Q. Why did Martin's mum leave?

A. She wrote a note of explanation, but Martin's dad wouldn't allow him to read it. Martin doesn't know why she left.

Q. Why don't Gracie and Annabelle like each other?

A. Annabelle claims Gracie pushed her off a swing in primary school, and Gracie says Annabelle fell accidentally and she was punished unfairly.

Q. Why is Gracie's dad away from home so much?

A. He's a travelling book salesman, but he also chooses to be away as a trial separation from Helen.

TIME OUT DUE TO INJURY

Q. What is Gracie's new nickname at school?

A. Cotton bud

Q. Where does Gracie go to hide during lunchtime?

A. The library

Q. What is different about the way Gracie felt during the match in Chapter 17?

A. Gracie felt lost, and she'd never felt that way before.

THE GAME FROM THE BENCH

Q. Why does Gracie go to the tin shed?

A. To secretly watch the team practice, and also to be alone.

Q. How does Alyce respond to Susan's invitation?

A. She says she can't make it and tells Susan how to spell her name properly.

Q. What does Helen do to help her business?

A. She takes out a second mortgage.



CATH CROWLEY

ANSWERS CONT...

BACK IN PLAY

Q. What has Gracie forgotten to do that she is upset about?

A. Say goodbye to her mum.

Q. What does Martin decide he won't do after the championships?

A. He is not going back home.

Q. Who are the friendly faces that Gracie sees in the crowd?

A. Her mum and dad.

EXTRA TIME

Q. Do Gracie's parents decide to get back together?

A. They are taking their time, and are not sure how it will end up.

Q. Why does Gracie think Martin hit the defender from the other team?

A. He said something bad about Gracie.

Q. Does the team make it to the final?

A. Yes.

**For more title information, cover images, author interviews,
reading group notes, teachers' notes, fun activities
plus more visit**

www.panmacmillan.com.au