

It's the 70th Anniversary of the Sandhurst Legends of Sport Competition. To win the glittering gold trophy, the players will need to go one better. Read the series and find out who can take the heat.

Move over Mitchell Grady, Luci Rankin has a story to tell. In round two the game is soccer and you need to be good to make the team. If you happen to be a girl, you've got to be better than good.

The Anniversary Legends Book Two:

Offside, Upfront

by
Michael Panckridge

Teacher Notes
prepared by Garry
Chapman

Readership: Mid-primary to
Lower-Secondary

Genre: Fiction

About the Story

The Sandhurst soccer team learned that their opponents from Wetherhood had developed a secret tactic for taking free kicks from just outside the box. Luci worked out a plan of her own to counter the tactic.

In a small group, discuss the following questions:

- What are some of the tactics you know of that are used by athletes competing in different sports?
- Do you think tactics can be effective in improving performance? Give reasons.
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of trying to discover the tactics used by your opponents?

Following your discussion, try to agree on an answer to the following questions:

- If your school was playing a rival school in an important soccer game would you try to develop a secret tactic in order to have an advantage over them?
- Would it be better to develop a tactic to help your team score or a tactic to prevent your opponent from scoring? Give reasons.

Share your group's ideas with the rest of the class.

Applying an Event from the Story to Real Life

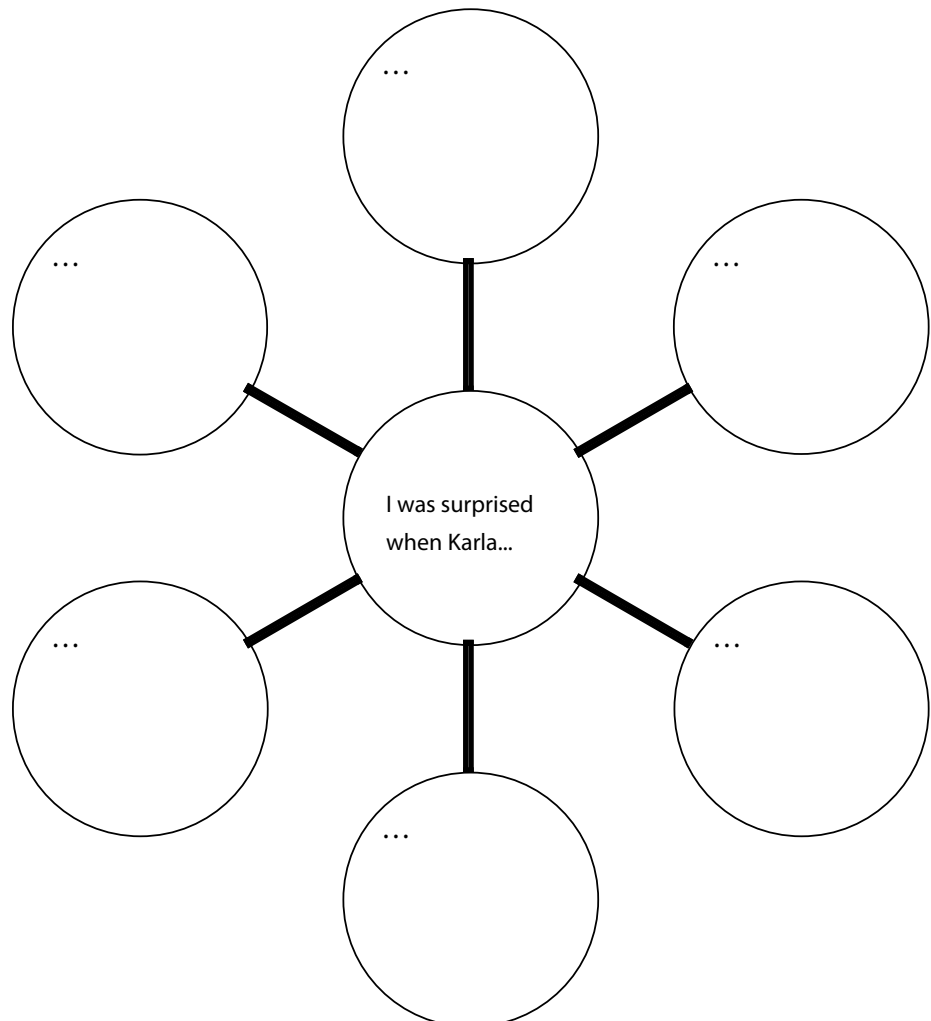
Mr Fisk tried unsuccessfully to keep the girls out of the soccer team. When Luci and Becky performed well at training, they were included in the squad.

Consider the following questions:

- How do you feel about Mr Fisk's desire to keep girls out of the soccer team?
- Is it common to find examples of discrimination in sport these days?
- What would be the fairest way for a school to determine whether or not boys and girls should play in the same team?
- What are some ways in which school sports can be made fairer for all students?

About the Characters

Karla is a complex character. Sometimes she seems hard to get along with, yet other times she does things which help Mitch and his friends. Which of Karla's actions surprise you the most?



Write a paragraph to explain what you think is probably the best explanation for Karla's behaviour.

About the Sport

Imagine you were Mr Zucker about to conduct an important soccer training session. What are five different things you would ask your players to practise and why?

No	Soccer skill	Reasons for Practising this Skill
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Word Study

The competition this year is known as the 70th Anniversary Legend of Sandhurst.

- What does 'legend' mean in the context of this story?
- What is a different meaning for the word 'legend'?
- What adjective derives from the word 'legend'?

The students competing in the Legend of Soccer competition had to practise their skills in order to play well.

- Can you explain the difference between the words 'practise' and 'practice'?
- Use the word 'practice' in an interesting sentence relating to this story.
- Use the word 'practise' in an interesting sentence relating to this story.

About the Author

Michael Panckridge is a teacher at Geelong College and has been working there for 12 years. He is pretty mad-keen on sport. He has played cricket, football, soccer, tennis, hockey, golf. He also collects sporting things. He has a massive collection of football cards and lots of cricket books too.

Michael lives in Geelong, Victoria with his partner Jo, and daughters Eliza and Bronte. This family also own a dog named Oscar and five fish (Angel, Fred, Luther, Ugly and Even Uglier). (Michael insists that he's never actually seen five fish at the one time. He also adds that the neighbours on both sides own cats!)