

Football Dreams - KEY

Pre-reading

1. What did you want to be when you were growing up?
2. Have you ever dreamed of being a famous sports person?
3. Do you have any elderly relatives that tell you anecdotes of their younger years?
 - a. What kind of anecdotes do they tell?

Predict:

You're going to read a story about a boy, his relationship with his grandad and football. What do you think is going to happen?

Read the text and match the paragraph titles to each paragraph.

- a. Lost in thought
- b. They just don't measure up
- c. A kick up the backside
- d. Can I talk him into it?
- e. Efforts come to fruition

1. They just don't measure up

My grandad had always seen himself as something of a football manager. He was always extolling the virtues of this or that long forgotten footballer or ranting and raving about how soft the current generation of pampered prima donnas were. It was difficult to find a modern player he deemed worthy of living up to his memories of the great icons of the past.

2. Lost in thought

His little home office was replete with mementoes of his all too short professional playing career, photos, shirts and dusty old memories. Sometimes I'd walk into the office to ask him something and find him so wrapped up in his memories that it was almost impossible to snap him out of it. There he sat, staring off into space with a gap-toothed grin on his face.

"I was in contention for a place in the Manchester United academy I'll have you know." went the story whenever he got a little tipsy, the whole family would join in for the next part: "This close, this close I was."

3. Can I talk him into it?

So when my school football coach was struck down with heart trouble, the first thought that popped into my head was of grandad. I thought he would jump at the chance but it took me a few days to talk him into it. I started by dropping hints over dinner every time he came over, then I decided to cut to the chase and ask him outright. Despite his grumblings about being too long in the tooth, the first training session of the new season came around and there he was on the touchline in a brand new tracksuit barking orders from the sidelines.

4. A kick up the backside

Now the last thing I expected was any kind of special treatment but nothing had prepared me for what happened on the first match day. Without so much as a "sorry kid", he took me aside and told me I was being unceremoniously dropped from the team. I was pretty shell-shocked to be honest and looked on from the sidelines forlornly as our team romped home to a 5-0 win. The poor opposition were no match for grandad's well-oiled machine.

5. Efforts come to fruition

Looking back now with hindsight, I have to admit that it was a stroke of genius on grandad's part, because guess who was first on to the pitch at training the following week? That's right, yours truly, turns out I respond well to tough love! Over the next few weeks I really busted a gut to get back in grandad's good books. It was the business end of the season and the games were coming thick and fast, so when our star striker came down with a cold on Wednesday night, I got the nod from the gaffer and started up front. I fluffed an early chance, maybe I was too eager to please, and grandad was on my back pretty quickly. But I soon settled into the game and got in the zone. I ended up scoring the perfect hat-trick, left, right, header and walked off with the match ball. As I was mobbed by my teammates at the final whistle, I glanced over at grandad, looking for his approval, and caught a glimpse of that familiar grin and the glassy far-away look in his eyes, broken only by an almost imperceptible wink....

Now **look at** the underlined expressions.

Discuss their meaning with your partner.

Memory Test:

Can you remember the missing words?

My grandad had always seen himself something of a football manager. He was always extolling the v..... of this or that long forgotten footballer or r..... and r..... about how soft the current generation of pampered p..... donnas were. It was difficult to find a modern player he deemed worthy living to his memories of the great icons of the past.

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Practice - Key Word Transformations

1. I need to do something to make up for forgetting my girlfriend's birthday.
GOOD
I need to do something to GET BACK // IN MY GIRLFRIEND'S GOOD books.
2. I remember the theme park being much more fun than that.
LIVE
The theme park struggled TO LIVE UP // TO MY MEMORIES.
3. She eagerly accepted the opportunity to work abroad for six months.
CHANCE
She JUMPED AT THE CHANCE // TO TAKE up a position in a different country for six months.
4. I'm nowhere near good enough to beat him at tennis.
MATCH
When it comes to tennis I AM NO MATCH // FOR him.
5. I'm just going to say the first thing I think of.
HEAD
I'm just going to say whatever POPS INTO // MY HEAD first.
6. He suddenly had an allergic reaction and had to go to hospital.
STRUCK
He WAS STRUCK // DOWN BY a sudden allergic reaction and had to go to hospital.
7. The boss is always quick to criticise me if I make a mistake.

BACK

The boss is always quick to GET ON MY BACK // IF I SLIP/MESS up.

8. My housemate came back from the gym talking really enthusiastically about his new diet.

RANTING

My housemate came back from the gym RANTING AND RAVING // ABOUT his new diet.

9. My girlfriend keeps indirectly suggesting that we get married.

HINTS

My girlfriend won't STOP DROPPING HINTS ABOUT // (US) TYING the knot.

10. Sarah was so focused on her book that she missed her bus stop.

WRAPPED

Sarah WAS SO WRAPPED UP // IN HER BOOK that she missed her bus stop.

11. Paul's idea to upgrade the company website was really clever!

GENIUS

Paul's idea to upgrade the company website WAS A STROKE OF // GENIUS!

12. The bosses are saying that there is a shortlist of four people for the new marketing job.

CONTENTION

Four people are SAID TO BE // IN CONTENTION FOR the new marketing job.

Conversation

1. How do you get in the ZONE when you need to do focused work?
2. Have you ever been so wrapped UP in a book/activity that you lost all track of time and place?
3. What do your parents or grandparents RANT. and RAVE about?
 - a. Do they ever EXTOL the virtues of an icon from the past? Or another member of your family?
4. Do you respond well to TOUGH love?
 - a. If not, what methods work best to motivate you?
 - b. Do you think TOUGH love works for most people?
5. Are modern footballers really PAMPERED prima donnas?
 - a. What can be done about this?
6. Have you ever COME down with a cold/illness at a really inopportune moment?
 - a. Where were you?
 - b. What happened?
7. If you want something, do you DROP hints or just ask the person OUTRIGHT?
 - a. Are you good at picking up on hints that other people are DROPPING?
8. Would you JUMP at the chance to work abroad?
9. What's your greatest sporting achievement?
 - a. Have you ever scored a perfect hattrick?
 - b. Have you ever been part of a team that worked like a well-oiled MACHINE?
 - c. Have you ever been DROPPED from a team?
 - i. How were you informed? Did someone take you ASIDE and tell you? Or did they do it in front of all your teammates?
 - d. What's the best way to get BACK into a teacher's good BOOKS if you've been misbehaving in class?

Writing

Tough love? Or an arm around the shoulder?

A magazine you read is asking for articles on the topic of motivation and different ways of helping people reach their potential and boost their motivation levels. You decide to send in an article. Your article should mention the motivational methods that work best for you and also discuss the pros and cons of different motivational methods.