



TEACHERS' NOTES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Primary-school aged children

CONTENTS

1. Plot summary	1
2. About the author	2
3. About the illustrator	2
4. Pre-Reading Questions	2
5. Post-Reading Questions	2
6. Key study topics	3
7. Key quotes	3
8. Further discussion questions	3
9. Additional activities	4
10. Further reading	5

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

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

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To develop language and literacy
- To learn about friendship, teamwork and facing challenges
- To identify examples of out-of-the-box thinking and problem solving

THEMES

- Working towards a goal
- Teamwork
- Friendship
- Problem solving
- Facing and overcoming challenges
- Empathy
- Personal strengths and weaknesses

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and Shelley Ware

PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9781761048906 (hardback)
9781760148829 (ebook)

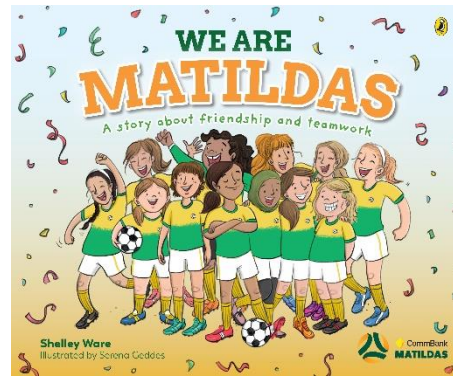
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We Are Matildas

Shelley Ware
Illustrated by Serena Geddes



PLOT SUMMARY

Jazzy dreams of being a football star and playing for the CommBank Matildas one day. She has a plan to get there . . . now all she needs is a team. This determined leader soon realises that being on the field with her friends is one of the best parts of the game.

Together, we are Matildas.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide, South Australia, who currently lives in Melbourne and is well known as part of the ground-breaking NITV football programs *Marngrook* and *The Point*. For the past decade or so, Shelley has worked in the media as a radio, podcast, print and television presenter on both local and national AFL football news shows. Shelley is a teacher, curriculum resource writer and education consultant who supports teachers and students in embedding First Nations culture and history into their everyday curriculum.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Serena Geddes, an international author and illustrator, has worked for Disney Studios, teaches art and is an avid lover of dogs (particularly Havanese). She has illustrated over seventy titles, from picture books to middle grade readers, and is about to step into the colourful world of graphic novels. Some of Serena's work includes the *Lulu Bell* series, *We Are Matildas* and her most recent comic series *Miles From Home*. As a Disney artist she worked on sequels to *The Lion King*, *Peter Pan*, *The Little Mermaid* and *Jungle Book*, which has enabled her to capture emotion and movement with her characters and illustrations.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Looking at the front cover, what do you think this book is about?
2. What do you know about the Matildas football team?
3. Consider the subtitle of the book. What makes a good friend?
4. What do you think a good team member does?

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. How did reading *We Are Matildas* make you feel?
2. How did the illustrations help to tell the story?
3. What made the Little Matildas a great team?



KEY STUDY TOPICS

Goals and Dreams

Jazzy dreams of playing football professionally and being a member of the Matildas football team.

Questions

1. Do you think Jazzy's dream of being a Matilda will come true?
2. What do you think some of the other characters in the book might dream of doing one day?
3. How do you think Jazzy might achieve her goal? What will she have to sacrifice?

Activities

1. Write down or draw what you would like to be doing in a year.
2. Write down or draw what you would like to be doing in five years.
3. Write down or draw what you would like to be doing in 10 years. Pair the kids together and ask them to talk about how they might achieve these goals.
4. Dear 9-Year-Old Me letter – Watch the following video of the Under-20s Young Matildas players read letters they wrote to their nine-year-old selves. Draw a picture or write a poem about the emotions you felt while watching the video and what you learned about making your dreams come true. [The Young Matildas write a letter to their nine-year-old self | Matildas](#)

Friendship

Jazzy put together her team by including her friends and inviting new students at school.

Questions

1. What lessons about friendship did Jazzy learn?
2. What makes Jazzy a good friend or teammate?

Activities

1. In a group, make a list of words that describe a good friend or team that you can display in the classroom.
2. Sit in a circle with your classmates and take turns choosing a word from the lists in the previous activity that best describes yourself and explain why.

Football and Other Activities

Jazzy and her friends play football (or soccer) as well as other sports, take music lessons and complete school work.

Activities

1. As a class, write a list of all the sports and other activities the kids participate in within school and outside of school. Discuss how kids feel about participating in these activities and if they sometimes wish they did less/more activities.
2. Plan and hold a football tournament at school, run by students for students. Have some fun out there and ask some students to create banners to support their favourite players and teams.
3. Have a FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ Party at school. Watch games or highlights. Ask students to write a review of a CommBank Matildas' game.
4. Ask a local or famous football player to come to your school and talk to the class about their football experience and their journey to becoming a sports person.

KEY QUOTES

1. *'I have a dream that's so big everyone tells me it's impossible. But you know what? I'm going to make it happen.'* (p. 3)
2. *'As I walk home, I start to wonder if not everyone shares my dream of becoming a Matilda. But I can't give up.'* (p. 17)
3. *'I know I want to be a Matilda one day, but playing with my friends is the best!'* (p.30)

FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are you part of a team, or do you have a favourite activity you do with friends? How did it start?
- What are some challenges that you have faced as part of a team?
- Do you have a goal or dream that sounds impossible? What are some steps you can take to achieve your goal?

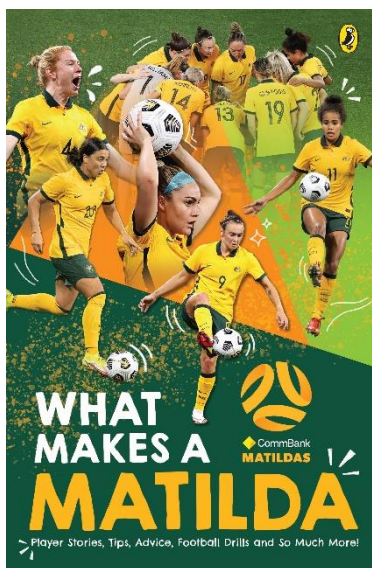


ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Make a banner for Jazzy and the Little Matildas, or for your favourite sports team.
- Write a few sentences or give a 30-second speech to your class about which character from the story you are most like and why.
- Research and write player profiles on the Matildas players, like Sam Kerr, Kyah Simon, Ellie Carpenter and other players mentioned in the story. Combine the profiles into a book that can be kept in the school library.
- Discuss how the illustrator has shown the action on the field in the second half of the book. What would this story be like without pictures? Draw a part of the story that isn't in the book.
- Did you know that the Matildas' team name comes from the folk song 'Waltzing Matilda'? Research other facts about the CommBank Matildas and women's football to display in the classroom.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

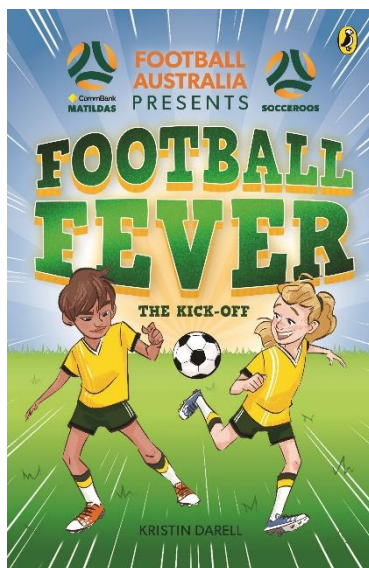


What Makes a Matilda

A non-fiction book about the CommBank Matildas and the history of women's football in general.

Go back to where it all began and follow the journey of our national team from their first international competition, to when they officially became the Matildas, to their preparations for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ – and everything in between! Plus, hear from current CommBank Matildas and find out everything there is to know about the ParaMatildas and the Young and Junior Matildas teams.

Featuring: Pathways to becoming a Matilda, how to capture the Matilda spirit, in-depth player profiles, football history, mindset advice, quotes from your favourite players, pro training drills, photos and more!



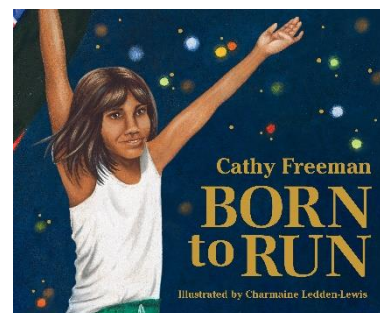
Football Fever, Book 1: The Kick-Off
by Kristin Darell

The first book in an action-packed junior fiction series in partnership with Football Australia. Featuring CommBank Matildas and Subway Socceroos stars Sam Kerr, Ellie Carpenter, Mary Fowler, Rhyan Grant, Joel King – and more!

Everyone's got football fever!

It's a new season for the Under 11s Merridale Fever! Kyra's the star striker and can't wait to meet the team's new recruit, Sam – all the way from England. But Sam has a secret – he's never played on a mixed team, and it's shaking his confidence. Will advice from some very special football superstars help Kyra and Sam join forces so the team can kick off the season with a bang, or will it end in disaster before it even begins?

Classroom activity available.



Born to Run
by Cathy Freeman,
Illustrated by Charmaine
Ledden-Lewis

A gorgeous picture book that will inspire girls and boys everywhere to chase their dreams.

As a little girl, Cathy Freeman had only had one dream – to win a gold medal at the Olympics. At twenty-seven years old, that dream came true. At the Sydney 2000 Games, she crossed the finish line, won a gold medal for Australia and became a national hero. How did she go from being a little girl who loved to run to an inspiration to people around the world?

Accompanied by beautiful illustrations by Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, Cathy tells her story about where self belief, hard work and the power of a loving family can take you.

Teachers' notes available.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>We Are Matildas</i>	Shelley Ware & Serena Geddes	9781761048906	K-6	\$19.99		
<i>What Makes a Matilda</i>	-	9781761048869	2-8	\$24.99		
<i>Football Fever, Book 1: The Kick-Off</i>	by Kristin Darell	9781761048067	5-7	\$14.99		
<i>Football Fever, Book 2: Half-time Heroes</i>	by Kristin Darell	9781761048074	5-7	\$14.99		
<i>Football Fever, Book 3: Next Level</i>	by Kristin Darell	9781761048081	5-7	\$14.99		
<i>Football Fever, Book 1: Gala Day</i>	by Kristin Darell	9781761048098	5-7	\$14.99		
<i>Born to Run</i>	Cathy Freeman & Charmaine Ledden-Lewis	9781761043802	K-6	\$24.99		
TOTAL						

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