

Declan Kirby GAA Star - Championship Journey

Questions

Chapter 1

1. What is the name of Declan Kirby's teacher?
2. There are three rumours about Declan's teacher's past. Name one of them?
3. What was Declan doing that gets his teacher's attention?
4. How do you think Declan handled things with his teacher?

Dictionary work – Find the meaning of these words and then put them into sentences.

Words – Sympathetic, acidic, plod, reluctant, clammy, squiggle

For example ;

Sympathetic = feeling, showing, or expressing sympathy.

I tried to tell her about the awful day I'd had but she wasn't very sympathetic.

Chapter 2

1. What is Declan's team called?
2. What team does Stewy tell Declan they are playing against tomorrow?
3. Who are the two brothers that are picking on Stewy?
4. What team are Smithgreen playing against in the first Championship match?
5. What's Declan's brother and sister called?
6. Where is Declan's school?
7. What is Declan's dream?

A verb is an action word for example, run, walk, jump, play

List five verbs within the first two chapters and then put them in a sentence.

or

Dictionary work

Words – Squabble, defuse, founded, scarce

Chapter 3

1. What is Declan's coach called?
2. Michael Kennedy is called Big Mike. What was his other nickname?
3. What's the name of Smithgreen's goalkeeper?
4. What position does Brian Bohan play in?

Dictionary work – Piercing, slushy, bulk, colossus

Chapter 4

1. What position does Declan play in the match?
2. Who does Declan mark?
3. Who is Smithgreen's centre-back?
4. Who scores the first goal?

5. Dereck loses his temper after a player pulls his jersey. Was Dereck right to have a go at him? If you think not, how should have he responded?

6. Why does Dereck receive a yellow card?

7. What very important lesson does Sam say to the team?

Antonyms are words which are opposite in meaning.

For example the opposite of cold is hot.

The opposite of long is short.

Give antonyms for each of the following.

1. Small _____

4. Wide _____

2. Empty _____

5. Entrance _____

3. Right _____

Find an antonym for these words – fast, whisper, enemy, nasty, forward, clean, silence, start

or

Dictionary work

Words – Scoop, dominate, possession, ego, evade, pent-up, wallop

Chapter 5

1. Who is the best Smithgreen player according to Dereck?
2. What team does Dereck think about switching to?

An adverb is a word that describes a verb.

For example, he sings loudly. Loudly is the adverb.

He ran quickly. Quickly is the adverb.

Can you find any adverbs in the first five chapters?

List four of them and put them into sentences.

Or

Dictionary work

Words – Adjust, attitude, reassure, promotion, enthusiasm

Chapter 6

1. Who do Smithgreen play the week before the St. Brendan's championship match?
2. Why is Dereck furious about the match?
3. Do you think Sam is fair or too harsh on Dereck?
4. Why happened to Jammer?
5. Why did Smithgreen lose the match?

Dictionary work

Words – Verge, contort, restrain, irate, outrage, uncalled, criticise

Chapter 7

1. What did Moira used to work as?
2. Is Thomas Hoskins justified the way he's trying to protect his son? Elaborate on your answer.

Give antonyms for the following – Unappreciated, resolve, minor, shout

Or

Dictionary work

Words – Unappreciated, resolve, minor, comparison, concerns, potential, legacy

Chapter 8

1. What is Thomas Hoskins' job?
2. What does Sam think Thomas' problem is?
3. Does Thomas make any good arguments towards Sam during their discussion?

Dictionary work

Words – Viciously, depend, pressure, ticked off, chaos, descend, sceptical

Chapter 9

1. Who did Ms Murphy yell at in class?
2. Why was Sam happy when he walked into the changing room?
3. Which Smithgreen player scored the first free kick?
4. Which Smithgreen player scored the first goal?
5. What team was winning at half-time?

An adjective is a describing word for example ;

The blue door.

The small car.

Find 5 adjectives in the book and put them into sentences.

Chapter 10

1. How did St Brendan's play differently in the second-half?
2. Who scored the winning goal of the match?
3. What was the final score?

Dictionary work

Words – Blinder, gesture, grudge, faze, strategy, reeling, gradual

Chapter 11

1. How does Stewy's mother encourage him to finish his homework?
2. Why is Sam suspicious of Thomas Hoskins?
3. What does Sam threaten to do if Thomas Hoskins' keeps undermining him?

Dictionary work

Words – Bugging, ulterior motive, committee, undermine, authority

Chapter 12

1. Who is Regina the mother of?
2. Are Regina and Caoimhe concerned about Sam's managing skills?
3. Did Thomas Hoskins' change the women's opinion of Sam?
4. What tactics does Thomas Hoskins use to try and sway Regina and Caoimhe?
5. Does Thomas bring up any fair points against Sam?

A synonym is a word has the same meaning as another word, for example ;

Good, great

Easy, simple

Give a synonym for each of the following – Stroll, reputation, associate, wander, subtle, barely

Chapter 13

1. Why doesn't Daniel play sport?
2. How does Daniel contribute to Smithgreen?
3. How do the Culbert brothers bully kids?

Dictionary work

Words – Huddle, juggernaut, update, surreal, contender, predestined, inconceivable

Chapter 14

1. Who are Ballygrove Gaels playing against?
2. Who is Hector Hernandez and why is Dereck scared of him?
3. How did Hector play in the match?
4. Who did St. Saran's play against in the previous match? What happened in that game?

5. Who are St. Saran's playing against next?

6. How did Ballygrove play in the match?

Find five nouns and put them into sentences

Chapter 15

1. Why was Declan worried about the Erin Gaels game before it even started?

2. Where is Harry Buska from?

3. Why is Declan concerned by Thomas Hoskins' behaviour at the games?

4. How did Harry play in the match? Give details.

5. How did Smithgreen play against Erin Gaels and St Brigids?

6. What does Thomas Hoskins intend to do?

Dictionary work

Words – Absent, upcoming, ponder, region, nudge, jam, jetlagged

Chapter 16

1. Do you think Thomas Hoskins actually believes Sam is a bad coach? Explain your answer.
2. Do you think Thomas actually cares about Smithgreen?
3. Does Thomas make any good arguments?
4. How does The Committee respond to Thomas' argument about removing Sam?
5. Does Thomas want to be coach because he genuinely believes he'll do a better job?

Find a synonym for each of the following – Sway, rely, detest, chit-chat, optimism, highlight, humiliate,

Chapter 17

1. Why did Declan need to get a new ball?
2. Why was Declan worried about his father?

3. What is the name of Declan's geography teacher?
4. What is the name of the quiz?
5. How did Declan study for the quiz?
6. Declan faced James in the sudden death part of the quiz. Why was Declan worried about James beating him?
7. What question in sudden death did James get wrong?

Dictionary work

Words – Distract, expect, chuckle, annihilate, puncture, grumble, taoiseach

Chapter 18

1. Who are Smithgreen playing in the semi-final?
2. Why was Declan concerned about where Thomas Hoskins was standing during the beginning of the match?
3. Which Smithgreen player scored the first point?

4. Which of the Smithgreen players scored the final goal?

Find the antonym for each of these words – Rigorous, guarantee, mistreat, inappropriate, threat

Chapter 19

1. Why does Harry have to head home?
2. How do the Smithgreen boys plan to pay for Harry's ticket back to Ireland?
3. How does Big Mike think to help Mrs Heaney?
4. Why does Pat O' Connor need help to carry out basic tasks?

Dictionary work

Words – Motion, relief, expensive, replacement, bound, odd job, hesitation

Chapter 20

1. How did Daniel contribute to Smithgreen's plan to pay for Harry's plane ticket?

2. Which country was Pat O' Connor stationed in?
3. While on duty in 1980, what did Pat and his army friends used to do?
4. A photograph grabs Declan's attention in Pat's house. Who is in the picture and why is it significant?
5. What happened to Pat's friend, Paddy McNally?
6. What hangs above Pat's front door?

Find five adjectives from any of the previous chapters and put them in a sentence.

Chapter 21

1. Who was late to help with the car wash?
2. How much money did Mr Dunne give the boys?
3. Why is Stewy so jumpy at the car wash?
4. Who encourages the Culberts to leave?

Dictionary work

Words – Struggle, glaze, cynical, surge, motivation, spotless, feedback

Chapter 22

1. What does Daniel keep doing at the dinner table?
2. Why does Louise want Declan to win the final?
3. Why is Declan worried about his father?

Find five adverbs from any of the previous chapters and put them in a sentence.

Chapter 23

1. Why are the boys at the airport?
2. Why are the boys making fun of Stewy?
3. Why is Declan considered about playing against the Culberts?
4. What's Harry been doing while he was back in Poland?

Find five verbs from any of the previous chapters and put them in a sentence.

Chapter 24

1. How were the Smithgreen players behaving on the way to the final?
2. Who is the captain of St Saran's?
3. What did Tommy Culbert do near the beginning of the match when the referee wasn't looking?
4. What does Thomas Hoskins do and how does his son react to it?
5. What happens between Tommy and Jammer?
6. Who scored the first goal of the match?
7. A spectator surprises Declan and gives him some encouraging words. Who is it and what does he say to Declan?

Find five nouns from any of the previous chapters and put them into a sentence.

Chapter 25

1. Declan wants to win the championship for another reason besides earning the trophy. What is it?
2. What happens to Jim Culbert after he tackles Dereck?
3. Why does Sam ask Declan to take the penalty?
4. Which player gives a speech after his team wins?
5. What was the final score?

Dictionary work

Words – Vow, belted, anticipate, sprawl, pounce, guilty, disapproval

Integration

Art

Draw or paint your version of the front cover.

Draw or paint your favourite scene from the book.

Create a club crest for Smithgreen.

Draw or paint the crest of your county team or your local club team.

Create a story board of the book.

Use clay or other materials to create some objects from the book or a scene from the book.

What would a match day programme look like for one of the Smithgreen games? Design one!

History

Can you research about the history of the following ;

The GAA

The LGFA

The Camogie Association

Handball

Rounders

Can you find any interesting details about these organisations?

Research some information about your county team or your local club.

Have they ever won anything?

Have any famous players played for them?

Geography

Where are the county grounds located in your county?

Where are your local club grounds located?

You can use Google Maps to help you with this. You could also locate other GAA clubs. There are many different GAA clubs in different parts of the world. Try to locate some of them!

Gaeilge

List the names of the counties in Irish

Drama

Create some freeze frames from different scenes in the book.

Hot seat Declan Kirby!

Create a profile on Declan Kirby or on another player if you wish.

SPHE

GAA in the media

Write your own match day report of one of the games in the book.

Music

Create a song for the Smithgreen team.