# THE LifE & times of GRACIE FALTRAIN

Kick-off SECTION ONE: From the book

Soccer boots and ball picture

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?

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## 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 difference 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?

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## The game from the bench

### http://www.clipartreview.com/_images_300/Two_black_cleats_with_a_soccer_ball_100823-215852-069009.jpgSECTION 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?

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## Back in play

### http://www.clipartreview.com/_images_300/Two_black_cleats_with_a_soccer_ball_100823-215852-069009.jpgSECTION 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 see 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.

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## Extra time

### http://www.clipartreview.com/_images_300/Two_black_cleats_with_a_soccer_ball_100823-215852-069009.jpgSECTION 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.

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### 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?

1. Gracie and Annabelle have more similarities than differences.

Discuss.

1. To really live you must make mistakes.

Discuss with reference to at least two characters in the book.

1. *“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?

1. *“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.

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## CHARACTER PROFILER

Your role is to chose one character form the story and describe that character under the heading of:

* Name
* Gender
* Physical description (what the character looks like, his / her clothing, hair, size, age, etc.)
* Personality (what type of person the character is – for example, happy and cheerful, sad and depressed, optimistic and friendly, unfriendly, shy, etc.)
* Socio-Cultural (what race, religion, culture, etc. Does this character belong to?
* Power relationships (who has power over this character, and who does this character have power over?)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Character’s  Name |  | | | | | |
| Gender |  | | | | | |
| Physical  Description |  | | | | | |
| Personality |  | | | | | |
| Socio / Cultural |  | | | | | |
| Power  Relationships |  | | | | | |
|  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Check your work. Does it show: | | Exc | H | Med | Low | NS |
| A thorough understanding of the demands of this role | |  |  |  |  |  |
| References to the novel | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Appropriate vocabulary | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Effective presentation and organisation | |  |  |  |  |  |

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## CONNECTOR

Your role is to find connections between the text you are reading and the world around you.

This means connecting the reading to:

* Your own life.
* Things happening at school or in your community.
* Similar events at other times and places.
* Other people or problems that you are reminded of.

You might also see connections between this text and other writings on the same topic, or by the same author. There are no right answers; whatever the reading connects you with is worth sharing!

Complete the following statement:

Some connections I found between this reading and other people, places, events, authors, etc:

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| Check your work. Does it show: | Exc | H | Med | Low | NS |
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## SUMMARISER

Your role is to prepare a brief summary of the reading.

You need to give a quick statement that focus on the key points and highlights.

These questions may help you write your summary:

* What are the most important events in this section?
* What makes them so important?
* What effect do these events have on the plot or the characters?
* What changes, in plot or character, did you notice when you read this part of the text?

List at least 4 key points and then complete your overall summary.

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| Check your work. Does it show: | Exc | H | Med | Low | NS |
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## WORD WIZARD

Your role is to be on the lookout for a few especially important words or phrases in today’s reading. If you find words or phrases that are puzzling or unfamiliar, jot them down while you are reading, and later find their definition.

Look for:

* Words that are puzzling or unfamiliar
* Words you think others may find difficult.
* Familiar words that are used in a different way in the reading.
* Words that are repeated a lot.
* Words that are used in an unusual context.
* Words that are linked to the main ideas/themes of the text.

Once you have found these words, write them down and find their dictionary definition.

Setting example:

Word: ...................................................................................... Page No. & paragraph.............

Definition: ....................................................................................................................................

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Word: ...................................................................................... Page No. & paragraph.............

Definition: ....................................................................................................................................

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