

Netball Dreamz

Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1 The Forbidden Book

- Q1 What is the name of the main character of the novel, Netball Dreamz?
- Q2 What siblings does the main character have?
- Q3 Who is the main character's friend?
- Q4 How does the main character feel she is viewed by the rest of her family? Give an example to support your answer.
- Q5 How is the main character viewed by her best friend? Explain how you have come to this conclusion.
- Q6 What are the motivations for the main character to take up this sport?
- Q7 What adversities does Sally face in her quest to be accepted into the netball team?
- Q8 What effect has the exchange with Siobhan had on Sally?
- Q9 In what ways is Siobhan manipulative?
- Q9 What is Sally trying to prove to her parents? Why?

Chapter 2 Nothing Good Comes easy

- Q1 Why did the girls need privacy to practice?
- Q2 What drills did the girls practice?
- Q3 What reasons did Patrick have for taking the netball away from the girls?
- Q4 Why did Patrick want the book more when the girls tried to grab for it?
- Q5 Can training with a partner be an advantage? How has it been for Sally?
- Q6 Should the girls receive a consequence for playing in an out of bounds area? Explain your reasons.
- Q7 Are struggles and set backs part of any success?

Chapter 3 Practice, Perfecting & Pests

- Q1 How did Patrick help the girls to practice?
- Q2 What drill were the girls practicing this particular lunchtime?
- Q3 What character in the story did Sally and Nat change their opinion about? What made them change their minds?
- Q4 Who did Sally and Nat perceive as a threat to their possibility of gaining a position on the net ball team?
- Q5 Sally's skills are showing improvement, name two instances of this improvement.
- Q6 Patrick seems to be becoming an ally (assisting them) how is he doing this?
- Q7 Why does Sally think she is safe to take the netball home with her?

Chapter 4 Coaches, Catches & Chaos

- Q1 Why was there no problem for Sally to smuggle the ball into her room?
- Q2 What did her brother do at the dinner table that Sally felt she would owe him a debt for?
- Q3 What did Nat suggest Sally needed to do to protect herself from James dobbing her in to her parents?
- Q4 Was Patrick trying to impress one of the girls when he joined in the training session? Who? Why did you select that particular character?
- Q5 Miss Crabble's announcement was a shock and a disappointment to some of the class. Why?

Chapter 5 Never Say Never

- Q1 Is Patrick as entitled as the girls to try out for the netball team? Why?
- Q2 Why does Miss Grabble keep going red in the face? Give some examples and explain them.
- Q3 Why did Maddie tell Sally to 'just make a good lead' and she would get the ball to her?
- Q4 What was the main problem facing Sally with regards to playing in the netball team, that she had yet to solve?
- Q5 Why do you think the title of the chapter is, 'Never Say Never'?

Chapter 6 A Hitch in the Plan

- Q1 What was the hitch in the plan? Explain
- Q2 Who do you think was responsible for the hitch?
- Q3 Do you think the teachers acted fairly? Why? Why not?
- Q4 Patrick was clearly upset by the events explain how he would view the situation he has found himself in.
- Q5 Nat seems to have escaped trouble – should she have spoken up and taken some of the 'heat' for the situation Patrick and Sally found themselves in?

Chapter 7 A Mission and a Discovery

- Q1 Who undertook the mission and what was it?
- Q2 What was the discovery?
- Q3 How did Sally use the discovery to her advantage?
- Q4 She saw a new side of her brother – what was this?
- Q5 A surprising complication is hinted at in this chapter – explain.

Chapter 8 Help From an Unexpected Source

- Q1 What was the unexpected source and why was it unexpected?
- Q2 What help were the girls given? How did Sally respond to this help? How did Nat respond to this help?
- Q3 Were Siobhan and her friends 'sexist' in their attitudes? Why were they behaving in this manner?
- Q4 Patrick was grateful for the support he received – how do we know this?

Chapter 9 What Feels Right

- Q1 What did Sally begin thinking about, that she had not taken notice of before?
- Q2 What did Nat struggle with in their training?
- Q3 Why did they decide to meet early at the gate before school?

Chapter 10 A Step Closer, A Step Back

- Q1 What steps did Sally take to try and resolve the issue with Nat and Patrick?
- Q2 What steps did Patrick take to try and not be a source of anger between Nat and Sally?
- Q3 How was the issue resolved? Who initiated the solution?
- Q4 What did Sally finally discover about Nat and Patrick?

Chapter 11 Big News, Big Problem

- Q1 What was the big news?
- Q2 What was the big problem?
- Q3 Name 2 players you considered to shine in the practice session and support your selection with an example of their playing capability.

Chapter 12 Countdown to the Tryouts

- Q1 Sally made further discoveries about her brother – what were they?
- Q2 Who surprised Nat and Sally by telling Alicia to shut up? Why did she do this?
- Q3 With the training drills, what is one important lesson that Sally learnt?

Chapter 13 Try Outs

- Q1 When were the try outs to occur and who would decide the team?
- Q2 Describe the outward signs of Patrick's illness?
- Q3 What did Miss Crabble and Mrs Douglas disagree about?

Chapter 14 Good News Gone Bad

Q1 Explain why there was good news and that this also meant bad news.

Chapter 15 One More Rule To Break

Q1 What was the cause of Patrick's illness?

Q2 Patrick made a lot of sense, what was it? Explain.

Q3 Who did they suspect had submitted Sally's signed permission form?

Chapter 16 So Close Yet So Far

Q1 How did Sally's mother and father discover the truth.

Q2 Who came to her defense and how?

Q3 Why was there a family rule about sport?

Q4 What advice did James have for Sally?

Chapter 17 A Time For Glory

Q1 Was the sign that told Sally that she would be going to the netball competition?

Q2 How did her parent's attitude change and how did they show this?

Q3 How did the relationship between Miss Crabble and Mrs Douglas change? Refer to the text for a quote that shows that there was a change.

Q3 What was the glory and was there more than one instance of glory? Explain.

Answers – Full sentence responses should be required

Chapter 1 The Forbidden Book

Q1 Sally

Q2 Brother James & Sister Jasmine

Q3 Natalie

Q4 Not as important to her parents as her brother who is smart and her sister who is a ballerina.

Q5 She views her sympathetically and supports her with positive affirmations.

Q6 To be noticed by her parents

Q7 No previous knowledge of the game (except television). No training. No support from home. No ball. Scoffed at by Siobhan.

Q8 What effect has the exchange with Siobhan had on Sally?

Q9 In what ways is Siobhan manipulative?

Q9 What is Sally trying to prove to her parents? Why?

Chapter 2 Nothing Good Comes easy

Q1 So they did not get noticed by the teacher or teased by Siobhan or so they did not have to give the netball back

Q2 Wall taps, reflex off the wall, hit the target.

- Q3 They had broken the rules. They were keeping a secret from him
- Q4 He realised how important it was to them
- Q5 Yes – and for Sally it was an opportunity for support and to learn skills from her friend.
- Q6 Yes? No depending on reasons – had broken the rules, but needed it to practice so rules should be bent....
- Q7 Answers will vary encourage personal experiences to be linked to opinions.

Chapter 3 Practice, Perfecting & Pests

- Q1 Lending them the netball for recess and allowing them to keep it for lunch, then allowing them to take it home
- Q2 Agility circuit, raps, clapping, catching behind your back, sky jump
- Q3 Maddie. They thought she was a bit weird, she moved from group of friends to group of friends. They changed their opinion when they found out her Mum was a netball coach and that her sister played at the State Netball Centre and she thought their drill was fun. They also learned that her mother was going to help with coaching the team.
- Q4 Siobhan because she seemed to have the teacher's ear with team selection and she didn't seem to like Sally and Nat.
- Q5 She had no trouble with the circuit the first time she tried it. She could do the raps, the clapping, she completed the catch behind your back, that Nat struggled with, sky jumps were easy for her as she was tall and had a huge spring and was a great jumper.
- Q6 Patrick let them keep the ball and even to take it home, this would allow them more time to practice
- Q7 She believes her parents do not care about her and will not notice. Her mother will be busy taking her sister Jessica to ballet and her brother will be in his room on the computer.

Chapter 4 Coaches, Catches & Chaos

- Q1 Because her parents were not home and her brother was in his room
- Q2 Did not do his sister in
- Q3 The she needed to have something to blackmail him with - such as the fact that he disappeared Saturday mornings
- Q4 Answers will vary – Maddie because of the history of the sisters playing together, Nat because they have been fighting since they were young, Sally because she could be a love interest or even no-one – perhaps he just loves netball!
- Q5 Because that would mean Nat and Sally could not try out!

Chapter 5 Never Say Never

- Q1 Yes?No depending on justification of boys/girls playing sports that are traditional gender based

- Q2 She feels her wishes are being modified by Maddie's Mum. – e.g allowing girls who have not played in a team to try out.
- Q3 She was assisting her to look like a good player in front of the selectors and to give her an opportunity to show her skills.
- Q4 Having her parents sign the permission form.
- Q5 On old saying that is used to remind people to keep trying even when they think it will not work out the way they expect.

Chapter 6 A Hitch in the Plan

- Q1 They did not have a ball to practice with, because the teachers had found out that they had borrowed the ball on an extended basis and the punishment was that they did not have a ball to train with. Another hitch could be the permission form and the parent's signature.
- Q2 Siobhan and her friends may have alerted the teachers
- Q3 Yes, because the rules had been broken. No because they should have fully investigated the circumstances and found out the reasons why and assisted the girls rather than punishing them.
- Q4 Patrick would feel upset that he was just trying to help the girls with their training and that he was now embarrassed and humiliated in front of his peers and chastised by the teachers.
- Q5 Yes, because she was involved.... No because it would not change the outcome and it is Patrick and Sally's choice to protect her.....

Chapter 7 A Mission and a Discovery

- Q1 Sally and Natalie – to find out where Sally's brother James went on Saturday mornings
- Q2 He played Saturday sport – hockey and had been lying to his parents about it for a long time!
- Q3 She blackmailed James into signing the permission slip for her to play sport.
- Q4 That he was just a nerd that he loved playing hockey and that he was willing to deceive their parents to do so, even that she could communicate with him and tell her all her troubles and that he would wish her well with her efforts to gain a place on the netball team.
- Q5 That there is a reason that their parents have a rule of no sport and that James knows what it is but because she is younger she does not....

Chapter 8 Help From an Unexpected Source

- Q1 Patrick, and it was unexpected because he had gotten into trouble by helping Sally and Nat in the past.

- Q2 They were lent a netball that belonged to Patrick's sister. Sally was appreciative. Nat was angry and reluctant to accept help – even her friend Sally thought she was being a cow.
- Q3 Yes, because they believed that boys should not play netball. They were behaving in this manner for many reasons – jealousy, not wanting further competition for the places available on the netball team, nasty, narrow minded etc etc
- Q4 He sent the girls a not in class thanking them.

Chapter 9 What Feels Right

- Q1 Being a defender – she had never noticed when watching games their skills
- Q2 Defending – she and Patrick ending up have quite a fall!
- Q3 To have some extra practice – to finish the training drills they had begun.

Chapter 10 A Step Closer, A Step Back

- Q1 She stood her ground and did not give in to Nat's demand. She tried to talk to Nat. She allowed her friend time to think/mull over her actions so that she could come to her own conclusion that she was being mean. She went with her as support when she suggested that they go and find Patrick to join in.
- Q2 He took himself out of their usual training session by saying they had stuff to do so that he would not be a source of contention between the girls. He forgave quickly and without harboring a grudge and joined back in when asked.
- Q3 Natalie realised that she had been mean and suggested that they go and find Patrick and ask him to join in. How was the issue resolved? Nat initiated the solution.

Chapter 11 Big News, Big Problem

- Q1 That they had been entered into a competition – special school competition run by the State Netball Association.
- Q2 That they would have their first game in a week and that meant that team selection was imminent – that Thursday!
- Q3 Any two players could be named, encourage students to use examples from the match practices to highlight why they think a particular player is capable.

Chapter 12 Countdown to the Tryouts

- Q1 That he played computer games in his room when she assumed he was studying, and that he was willing to train with her.
- Q2 Siobhan. Answers will vary – growing maturity, realisation that the other girls are mean, realisation that they must work together as a team....

Q3 Concentrate.

Chapter 13 Try Outs

Q1 After lunch Miss Crabble and Mrs Douglas

Q2 His face was white and his red hair looked like a bonfire – he was lethargic at try outs and Mrs Douglas wanted him to let her know if he felt any tightness in his chest.

Q3 Patrick trying out on this occasion and whether it was necessary, further if his selection should only be based on this particular performance.

Chapter 14 Good News Gone Bad

Q1 Good news, Sally made the team. Bad news, she had broken family rules and her parents forbid her to play.

Chapter 15 One More Rule To Break

Q1 asthma

Q2 That Sally loved netball and that she should continue to play and practice no matter what – it worked it did cheer her up!

Q3 James

Chapter 16 So Close Yet So Far

Q1 A letter home from school inviting them to attend the match

Q2 James, by showing them his medals and talking about his achievements and his disappointment that they were not there to share it. Also, by suggesting to his father that his rule was misguided.

Q3 His father was a champion football player and had a contract, but after a car accident and smashing his knee, which ended his career, he did not have an education to fall back on, and he does not want this to happen to his children.

Q4 What advice did James have for Sally?

Chapter 17 A Time For Glory

Q1 Cut lunch on the kitchen bench in the morning

Q2 They decided to allow Sally to play and to support her – to show this, Sally's mother provided a cut lunch and they both came to watch and support her playing.

Q3 Miss Crabble realised that Mrs Douglas' methods had paid off! Quote "She was smiling and acting like her friend."

Q3 The glory was that they won a chance to play in the finals. Other glory instances could be interpreted as - a relationship developed between Sally and James. That the parents reviewed their, no sport stance. The parents strengthened their relationship with their children. That a boy had made it into a girl dominated sport. That Nat and Sally had made some new friends.