



Féile Fever

ISBN 978-1-84717-173-3 pb

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Teaching Guide

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RATIONALE AND THEMES

Féile Fever is the second book featuring Danny Wilde. The story continues with a series of fresh adventures, challenges and dilemmas for Danny, his dad Mick and his friends at Littlestown Crokes G.A.C.

The story presents Danny with success and dilemma in equal measure and challenges him to respond with sensitivity and composure, in the best tradition of G.A.A. sportsmanship.

Although the context for the action is distinctly sporting, the themes have a broad appeal and will engage a wide audience of children.

The themes include:

- Dealing with success
- Keeping secrets
- Family break-up
- Rivalry
- Resentment
- Jealousy
- Forgiveness
- Gender awareness

SUMMARY

Littlestown Crokes G.A.C. has been promoted; however despite the efforts of their coaches, Mick and Jimmy, they are unable to make an impression in the league.

Even the skills both Danny and Jonathan cannot provide the punch for them to compete at this level. When Barry Sweeny, the Croke's forward breaks his collar bone in a collision with the Chapel Hall's goalie; weakening them even further; their prospects in the league now look bleak and humiliating.

Providence, however, provides a solution in the form of Todd Bailey; a talented Australian Rules football player and a new pupil to Danny's class in school.

Although Danny and Todd become friends, Todd is reluctant to join Littlestown Crokes or play Gaelic football. That changes when the class are taken on a visit to see Croke Park and the G.A.A. museum.

Todd is converted, and quickly proves to be the solution to Littlestown Crokes' lack of power and punch.

It is now too late for the Crokes to salvage the league, however, when circumstance asks then to step in at the last minute and host the Féile, they have the perfect opportunity to restore both their pride and their reputation.

Success and self belief for the Crokes are restored during the 1st round of the Féile as they battle their way through to the semi finals.

At this point, fortune appears to desert them. Trinity, a friend of Jonathan's sister, catches the attentions of both Todd and Danny and both try to impress her. When Todd takes her to the cinema, Danny reacts to his provocative taunts accusing him of lying about his father. A row develops. Todd storms off and the Crokes have to field a weakened and disheartened team in the final without him.

The story, however, has one final twist. A wild horse back ride and a chance to see things differently, allows Todd to find reconciliation with both his own dad and with Danny.

A tantalising second half display by a full strength team, now including Todd, restores pride and confirms the passion, commitment and sportsmanship that the Féile has promoted.

APPROACH

The themes supporting the story deal with a range of sensitive issues that have

a direct relevance to the age group. They include rivalry, jealousy, resentment and family break-up.

The sporting context of the story provides the opportunity to discuss the issues and examine positive alternative responses to them through a safe and neutral environment.

Class discussion in a trusted forum; e.g. Circle Time; where conflicting views can be presented, would be the most appropriate.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- (Read p45): Splinter Danny and Todd are watching Trinity and Lowry playing tennis, when Splinter describes them as 'eye candy'. What do you think that he means? How do you think the girls might feel to be described like this? Do you think that it is a respectful way to describe the girls?
- (Read pp 87 & 92): When Danny sees Trinity; he is completely distracted and unable to concentrate on the game. Why do you think this has happened and what might he be thinking? What advice would you give him to help him regain his composure?
- (Read p 94): Todd has lied to Trinity about his dad. Why do you think he lied to her? Do you think it was wrong to lie in these circumstances?
- (Read p 128): When Mick hears Danny describe Todd's strange behaviour and outburst, he made a decision to tell him all about Todd's dad. Do you think this was either wise or fair of him? What do you think he could have said to Danny without breaking any confidence?

THE FÉILE

When Littlestown Crokes G.A.C. was asked to host the Féile, there was a tremendous amount of organising to do. Everyone became involved and the work was shared. This is the G.A.A. spirit of doing things.

This year, your local G.A.C. has been asked to host the County Féile and they have asked you for your help.

They have asked you to produce a poster and a coloured fact sheet / guide (**to be distributed during the Féile**) to promote the club and explain the Féile.

You can work in small groups. You will need to decide what size the poster and the fact sheet / guide will be, what information you will provide and pictures you will include.

For information and research you can try www.G.A.A.ie

You will also need to decide how you will gather the information. Maybe you could organise a class visit to your local G.A.A. club or invite a club coach in to talk to your class?

You can use some of the suggestions below if you need help with ideas:

Club Facts:

- Club name: who is it named after and why?
- Club colours and badges: what is their significance?
- Club facilities and teams.
- Gather people's opinions about the club.

Club History:

- When was the club founded?
- What competition successes are they most proud of?
- Which players could be included in a club Hall of Fame? What could you say about them?

Sponsors:

- Who are the sponsors and what do they do?

Reaching out:

- Some people who will attend the Féile may not have any G.A.A. background; some may not even be from Ireland.
- What information would you include in the guide so that they would also be able to understand the significance of the Féile and the G.A.A.?
- Would they need a pronunciation guide or perhaps a short glossary for some of the words?
- Your information guide will need to give all the important facts very briefly and still be interesting so that people will want to read it

The Napkin:

To celebrate the club hosting the Féile this year, the sponsors have decided to produce a simple paper sandwich wrapper / napkin that will advertise the club, the Féile and their business. These will be used to wrap and hold the sandwiches. They have asked you to submit design ideas for the napkin. It will need to be very simple and still promote all three concepts. Could you design a napkin that will do this for them? Where on the napkin would you put the important elements of your design so that they would still be visible when the napkin is wrapped around a sandwich?

COULD UNCLE LARRY HELP?

(Read pp 46-47 & 91-93)

Danny seems to be unable to deal with his feelings about Trinity and cannot talk about how he feels either to his dad, Mick, or to his friends. He is alarmed at how easily Todd seems to attract her attention, and confused that he cannot display the same confidence and skill in her presence.

He decides to take direct action. He admires and respects his uncle Larry; especially now that he and Mick are friends again and he makes a decision to write a letter to his Larry, explaining his problem and asking for his advice.

What do you think he might say in the letter to describe what is really annoying him and how do you think that Larry might reply?

For this activity, you could work together in groups. One group could take the role of helping Danny to write his letter explaining his problem and asking for advice. The other group could take the role of Larry; read the letter from Danny and reply to it. What advice do you think that Larry might give to him?

You can use the templates below for your letters.

