Maxx Rumble Footy

Author: Michael Wagner
Illustrator: Terry Denton
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NZRRP: $11.99
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Crunched! 9781922077813
Slammed! 9781922077820
Flattened! 9781922077837
Smashed! 9781922077844
Twisted! 9781922077851
Stretched! 9781922077868
Winded! 9781922077875
dogged! 9781922077882
Grand Final Fever! 9781922077899

Outline:
Maxx Rumble’s sporting adventures are absolutely incredible to say the least! You will hardly believe what goes on during a thrilling, and sometimes bizarre, season of footy.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Michael Wagner is the author of 50+ books for children. Prior to becoming a children’s author, Michael had worked as radio broadcaster, written and produced award-winning animation, and written and performed comedy. In his spare time, he writes songs for his band, The Grownups. You can find out more about Michael from his fun and revealing website: www.michaelwagner.com.au

Terry Denton is best known for the Gasp! books and TV series, the Wombat and Fox stories, and his 20 books in collaboration with Andy Griffiths. He has written 22 children’s books himself and collaborated on 80 more with some of the most popular children’s authors in Australia. Terry won the Children’s Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award in 1986 for Felix & Alexander and has since been short-listed for many awards both in Australia and internationally.

How to use these notes:

This series works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

These notes are for:
• Primary years 2-5
• Ages 7+

Key Learning Areas:
• English
• Physical Education

Example of:
• Chapter book
• Illustrated fiction
• Series

Themes/Ideas:
• Sport
• Leadership
• Courage
• Friendship
• Values (honesty/sportsmanship)

National Curriculum Focus:

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*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.
Discussion Questions and Activities

Book 1: Crunched!

Focus on footy
- Should umpire B. Freddy have done something about Wedgie and Tarkyn’s behaviour on the field? What should he have done and why?
- Talk to your footy coach or a friend or family member about the incident and ask them what they think the umpire should have done.

Focus on language
A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two different things. Maxx uses a number of similes to describe Wedgie and Tarkyn crunching him on the field.
- List the similes Maxx uses
- Write a few similes of your own

Focus on life
Maxx was being bullied by Wedgie and Tarkyn on the field.
- What does bullying mean?
- What are your school rules about bullying?
- How could you improve on those rules?

Book 2: Slammed!

Focus on footy
Boofa bumps Maxx completely off the field and later Maxx bumps Boofa back.
- What rules are involved in bumping?
- Do you think Boofa’s bump was legal?
- Describe a time when you were bumped playing footy. Use colourful vocabulary when describing it so that the person reading it get a clear understanding of how it felt.

Focus on language
- Maxx likes to exaggerate when telling stories about his games.
- How can you tell when he is exaggerating?
- What do you think really happened in this game?
- Write a story about a recent game you played. Using your imagination, exaggerate what happened to create a funny and unbelievable recount of the game.

Focus on life
After getting SLAMMED, Maxx doesn’t feel like he can go back out on the field, so the Mello family encourage him to get back into the game.
- Have you ever felt that you’d like to give up in the middle of a game? What did you do to overcome that feeling?
- List six strategies you could use to help a friend who wants to give up in the middle of a game.
**Book 3: Flattened!**

*Focus on footy*
Maxx says that his favourite position is full-forward.
- What are the other positions in AFL?
- Briefly describe what each position is responsible for.
- What is your favourite position? What do you like about it?

*Focus on language*
Onomatopoeia describes words that look like the sound they make. You pronounce the word on-oh-mat-oh-phee-ah. Some common examples are boom, fizz, creak, knock, ping, thud, whoosh and bang. Maxx likes to use onomatopoeic words when describing his games.
- Identify the onomatopoeic words used in FLATTENED!
- Write a short story about a footy game using lots of onomatopoeic words

*Focus on life*
Maxx thinks outside the box when he uses the goal-post padding as protection for his bruised ribs.
- Recall a time in your own sporting past when you thought outside the box to overcome a problem.
- Also, recall a time outside of a sports game where you though outside the box.
- Share your stories with a group of friends

**Book 4: Smashed!**

*Focus on footy*
Thelma “Thrasher” Thatcher distracted Maxx by doing dances and mimes.
- Is distracting other players using methods like Thelma against the rules?
- Imagine you are the coach of the Stone Valley Saints, write a letter of complaint to the ALF Commission requesting that a decision should be made as to whether or not she should be allowed to play like that in the future.

*Focus on language*
In the Maxx Rumble books, the names of the opposing teams are usually a play on words. A play on words is another name for a pun, which is where a word or phrase has another humorous meaning.
- What is the other meaning for the Sproilt Bats?
- Look at some of the other Maxx Rumble books and identify some puns in team and character names.

*Focus on life*
The footy game gets rained and hailed on.
- Have you ever had a sporting game affected by bad weather? What happened?
- List some items players should take along to outdoor sporting games in case of bad weather.
- List items spectators should take.
**Book 5: Twisted!**

**Focus on footy**
Sometimes when footy players play tricks on their opponents, even if they have not infringed the rules, their antics are considered to be not in the spirit of the game.

- Define what is meant when someone says an action was “not in the spirit of the game”.
- Explain why footy players do not enjoy playing against an opponent whose antics are not within the spirit of the game.
- Give your opinion, with reasons, as to whether or not the Pigdogs have played within the spirit of the game.

**Focus on language**
On page 2, the author describes a single cricket delivery in detail. He describes how the ball was bowled, what Maxx thought was going to happen, the shot played by the batsman and the reaction of the umpire. It is detail like this which helps us to form a picture of the action in our minds when we read this book.

- Choose one incident from the story which is not described as much detail, such as:
  - A bouncer bowled by Wedgie
  - The dismissal of Brodie
  - The catch that dismissed Lynn

Your task is to write a detailed snapshot of that part of the story in a method similar to that used by the author on page 2.

**Focus on life**
When Maxx’s team is being HAMMERED, rather than give up, Maxx thinks of an idea which might bring about a change of luck.

- Think of a time when things weren’t going right for you until you used your brain and found a solution to the problem.
- Share your story with a small group of friends.
- Ask them if they could think of an alternative solution.

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**Book 6: Stretched**

**Focus on footy**
The coach, Mr Brown, puts Maxx in the back line to try to stop the terrible trio. My Brown created a strategy to overcome a problem.

- Do you or your coach create strategies for games of footy?
- Are they the same strategies every time or do they change based on the other players?

**Focus on language**
- How can the reader tell when a character is speaking?
- What are the rules for using quotation marks in a story?
- What punctuation can be used in dialog to make it read like actual speech?

**Focus on life**
Maxx overcomes adversity when he is stretched by using his new-found long arms and legs to stop Richard, Tinker and Fang from scoring more goals.

- Recall a time when something bad happened to you and you managed to turn it into a positive. What did you do to overcome your problem?
- List six fun things you could do if you suddenly found yourself with very long arms and legs.
**Book 7: Winded!**

**Focus on footy**
The umpire blames Maxx for knocking Tarkyn over when it was actually Wedgie’s fault.
- Write a brief explanation of the role of an umpire in a game of AFL.
- List six ways an umpire might prevent a player or team from cheating.

**Focus on language**
- What is the purpose of the different sized fonts used through the Maxx Rumble books? How does it change the way you read the text?
- Think of a few other unusual ideas of how the font or layout could be changed to make the books more interesting to read.

**Focus on life**
Tarkyn and Wedgie bicker with each other through the game.
- Is it important to get along with your team mates?
- What could happen if your team mates argue during a game?
- List 6 strategies for dealing with problems that arise among team mates.

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**Book 8: Dogged!**

**Focus on cricket**
The Rodents use Libba the dog as a secret weapon against the Stone Valley Saints.
- Are there rules against using dogs and other animals in AFL teams?
- Do you think using dogs as team members is a good idea or a bad idea? Why?

**Focus on language**
- Write an imaginative story about a game of footy where one of the players is an animal. Let your imagination go wild with the animal you choose. What would this animal be good at in a game of football?

**Focus on life**
Maxx’s team enjoyed a successful season. Along the way they had to overcome many challenges. At different times each player in the team made a valuable contribution. Above all, they enjoyed being part of a team and enjoyed playing sport together.
- List six reasons why team sports are enjoyable.
- List six things, other than sport, which also require team participation.
**Book 9: Grand Final Fever!**

**Focus on footy**
Maxx and the Stone Valley Saints are thrilled to win the grand final. When a team wins a game, there is a risk of being a bad winner. On the other hand if you lose, there is a risk of being a sore loser.

- List 6 strategies you and your team can use to avoid being a bad winner/sore loser.

**Focus on language**

- Imagine you are a journalist with the local newspaper. Write a match report on the tactics the Rodents used to try and cheat their way into winning and how Maxx foiled their plot. Include an interview with Maxx in your report.

**Focus on life**
Maxx and Libba realize they are allowed to be friends off the field even though they are enemies on the field.

- Is it important for in-game rivalries to not continue outside of the game?
- Have you ever had to play against a friend in a game? How did you handle that?