FOX SWIFT takes on The Unbeatableables

DAVID LAWRENCE with CYRIL RIOLI
Illustrations by JO GILL
Fox Swift takes on The Unbeatables is the hilarious sequel to David Lawrence’s much-loved book Fox Swift. With wacky cartoons and expert footy tips from Hawthorn champion Cyril Rioli, this book is a gripping page-turner that will have kids cackling from start to finish—even the most reluctant reader won’t be able to put it down.

Fox Swift is really excited about captaining the Davinal Diggers for a second season. Who wouldn’t be? The Diggers have Aussie Rules superstar Cyril Rioli giving them football tips, a galaxy of star players, some sensational new recruits, and let’s not forget their quirky mascot: a kangaroo with serious attitude.

But Mace Winter and his father Miles have hatched an evil plan to stop Fox and the Diggers from defending their premiership. They have sneakily recruited the best footballers from all the other teams in the competition to make up a formidable Dragons team they call ‘The Unbeatables’.

Can Fox and his friends avoid detentions, dirty tricks and a rat plague to bring home an unlikely premiership for the Diggers?
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FAILURES, I THINK NOT!

“Because you said Albert Einstein failed mathematics,” said Chung. “That’s incorrect—in fact by the age of 15, Einstein had mastered differential and integral calculus. The only exam he is known to have failed was an entrance exam to the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School, but he was years younger than the other students at the time—and even in that exam he did brilliantly in the maths and science sections.”

Lots of people went on to become huge successes after experiencing a failure in their early life. In fact, everyone experiences failure at some point in their life—even Fox Swift lost some footy games with the Diggers! Winston Churchill once said, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”

Can you match the setbacks below with the person who experienced them?

- Michael Jordan: Music teacher told him he was a hopeless composer
- Steven Spielberg: 2 unsuccessful businesses before founding a car company
- Babe Ruth: Only sold 1 painting during his lifetime
- Henry Ford: Her novel was rejected by 12 publishers
- Beethoven: Struck out 1330 times
- Walt Disney: Didn’t make his high school basketball team
- Albert Einstein: His teacher told him he was too stupid to learn anything
- Thomas Edison: Unsuccessfully applied to attend film school 3 times
- J. K. Rowling: Learned to speak at a later age than average
- Marilyn Monroe: Fired from a newspaper for his lack of ideas
- Oprah Winfrey: A film company fired her because 'she couldn't act'
- Bill Gates: Dropped out of Harvard University
- Vincent Van Gogh: Fired from a TV job because 'she was deemed not suitable for television'

On a blank piece of paper, list other examples of people who have experienced an early failure before achieving success.
“Are you tidying up your room in there?” she asked.
“Yes, Mum!” Fox yelled back.
“Are you sure you’re not lying on your bed thinking about footy?”
“As if!” said Fox, quickly leaping off his bed and picking up a t-shirt he had tossed on the floor three days ago.

Authors want readers to know about their characters. However, it’s boring to read sentences like, ‘Tom is very organised.’ This is an example of what authors call ‘telling’. Rather than ‘telling’ readers about Tom being organised, writers ‘show’ he is organised through phrases such as, ‘Tom’s dresser drawer had 13 pairs of perfectly matching socks lined up in centimetre-perfect rows’. This ‘shows’ Tom is an organised person and is more interesting to read.

Describe the bedrooms of each of the following characters to ‘show’ your readers something about their personality.

A teenage boy who skateboards all day and hopes to be a professional skateboard rider.

A teenage girl who loves juggling, performing magic and making people laugh.

A science teacher who is trying to invent the world’s first ‘invisibility formula’.

On a blank piece of paper, write a description of the bedroom of a character from **Fox Swift takes on The Unbeatables**. Ask a peer to read the description and see if they can guess what character you chose.
Hugo agreed to give it a try and called Chung over. “Hey, I’ve got a joke for you,” he said. “A photon is going through airport security, right? And the customs officer asks if he has any luggage. And the photon says, ‘No, I’m travelling light!’” Chung immediately laughed hysterically, while Fox, Lewis and Paige just stared at the two geniuses.

Fox asks Hugo to tell Chung one of his smart jokes.

The boys know if Chung laughed at one of Hugo’s smart jokes then he must be brilliantly smart too.

Can you match the smart jokes with their punchlines below?

What did one DNA say to the other DNA? “If I’ve told you n times, I’ve told you n + 1 times!”


Did you hear about the mathematician who is afraid of negative numbers? A time traveller walks into a bar.

What did the barman say when C, E-flat, and G walked into a bar? “Sorry, we don’t serve minors.”

What did the sign in the music shop say? “Make me one with everything.”

What did the Buddhist say when ordering a hamburger? “Sorry, we don’t serve time travellers in here.”

Do these genes make me look fat? She’ll stop at nothing to avoid them.

How easy is counting in binary? Because 7, 8, 9!

Why is 6 afraid of 7? She didn’t have the inclination.

Why didn’t the girl walk up the hill? As easy as 1, 10, 11
THE BEST TEAM

Mace was certain the Dragons would beat the Diggers this season. With his dad secretly paying and recruiting the best footballers in the district, how could they lose?

Imagine you are in charge of a new football team. Your team will play in the AFL and you have an unlimited budget. That’s right, you can pay whatever amount to get the best players in Australia to play in your team!

On the field below, enter the names of the players you select to be in your team.
Chase studied the ladder and was very pleased to see that the Diggers were currently sitting second. He was not so pleased to see that the Dragons were on top with an incredible percentage.

The table below shows the results after 5 rounds of the footy season. Use your maths skills to place the teams in their correct positions on the ladder. Teams get 4 points for a win and 0 for a loss.

If two teams have the same number of points their position on the ladder would usually be determined according to their percentages, but in this case just put them alphabetically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>PTS</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Bridge Magpies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregtown Goannas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linmore Leopards</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballymore Bears</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennant Hill Tigers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firbush Fever</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colbran Cockatoos</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romana Roosters</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davinal Diggers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonewarren Stingrays</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepton Sharks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davinal Dragons</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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HOT PURSUIT

With 25 boys in hot pursuit, Rosie increased her speed and was soon going so fast her ponytail was flying straight out behind her.

“She’s only a girl” yelled Mace. “We’ll catch her for sure.”

But, if anything, as Rosie raced in and out of the trees that were dotted around the oval, the distance between her and her pursuers was increasing.

Rosie is a very speedy runner. How speedy are you at your times tables?

For this activity you will need a partner, a stopwatch or timer and a deck of cards (with the picture cards removed). Place one card in the rectangle on the left-hand side of this page. Your partner will then start the timer. When the time starts, you will flip a card from the deck and place it in the rectangle on the right-hand side of the page. Multiply the two numbers on the cards together and call out the answer. Your partner will time how long it takes you to get through the whole deck. Your partner will then see if they can beat your time. Be careful not to go too quickly ... wrong answers incur a five-second penalty!
“Dad, have you been googling ‘footy terms’?” Fox asked suspiciously.
“What are you talking about?” said Mr Swift defensively.

Chase snatched his dad’s mobile phone from his hand and quickly checked the search history.
"Mmm, what do we have here?” he asked with a smile. “Footy terms you can use to impress people‘—
what do you say about that, Dad?”

'I refuse to say anything without my lawyer being present!’ he replied

Fox and Chase bust their dad for googling footy terms by checking his internet search history.
You could discover a lot about the characters in Fox Swift takes on The Unbeatables by researching their internet search history.

What searches do you think the following characters would have made?
The first one for each character has been done for you.

Vince
Does carrot juice attract rabbits?

Miles
How to evict old ladies from rental properties.

Fox
Pathways to the AFL.

Chung
Exciting holidays destinations in Australia.

Greg Scott
AFL training drills for talented juniors.
A hush fell over the changing room as Cyril cleared his throat to speak. No one wanted to miss a word he said.

“I want you to remember one thing,” said Cyril. “A champion team will always beat a team of champions.”

The above quote from Cyril Rioli means that a team made up of champion players, who play for themselves, will always be defeated by a team who are champions at working together.

Read the famous champion quotes below and write underneath each one what it means to you.

“A champion is someone who gets up when he can’t”—Jack Dempsey

“The vision of a champion is bent over, drenched in sweat, at the point of exhaustion, when nobody else is looking.”—Mia Hamm

“There’s a difference in thinking you are a champion and knowing that you are.”—Matthew McConaughey

“I think self-awareness is probably the most important thing towards being a champion.”—Billie Jean King

On a blank piece of paper, write other champion quotes you can find and what you think they mean.
Fox suddenly realised where he’d heard her name before. Late last year he had gone along to watch Lewis compete at a national athletics tournament. Lewis had broken the Australian record for his age group in both the 100- and 200-metre sprints, and Fox had been thrilled for his best mate. But someone else had also smashed a number of Australian records that day—in the 800-, 1500- and 3000-metre events. As Fox and Lewis were leaving the athletics stadium, her name had been announced over the loudspeaker: Rosie McHusky.

Rosie and Lewis both put in brilliant efforts to break Australian records.

Use your research skills to see if you can discover who holds the following AFL records:

1. Lowest team score in a game: .................................................................
2. Highest team score in a game: .................................................................
3. Highest losing team score: .................................................................
4. Lowest winning team score: .................................................................
5. Highest team score in a quarter: .................................................................
6. Most goals in a game by an individual: .................................................................
7. Most goals in a season by a player: .................................................................
8. Most career games by a player: .................................................................
9. Most consecutive games by a player: .................................................................
10. Most premierships by a player: .................................................................

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MONEY FOR MISTAKES

That night Miles received another email from Mr Jackson:

Dear Miles,

I am once again writing to you on behalf of the Dragons recruits. We wish to inform you that if you want our boys to play in the Grand Final you will need to pay us a “Grand Final Bonus” of $150 per player on top of the “Finals Bonus” of $100 per player. There should also be an added bonus to the bonus incentive scheme so that players are to be paid $50 for each goal they kick, and an extra $200 if they are named in the best players. If you refuse this request, the boys will come down with a sudden case of “gastro” and will not be able to play.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Have a nice day,
Mark Jackson

Miles agreed to pay the Dragons recruits bonuses. Imagine you were paid to work at school!

Below is an extract from Fox Swift takes on The Unbeatables. However, the text has lots of mistakes. The mistakes are punctuation and spelling errors. Imagine your teacher is giving you $10 for every mistake you find. How much money would you make?

during the break Mr Scott took off Mo, Rosie Sammy and Simon. “You guys has been fantastic but we need to give everyone a go” he told them
When Miles sore these star players heeding to the bench at the start of the second quarter, he was thrilled
“How pathetic is Greg Scott? he sniggered. “What sort of idiot coach takes off some of his best players in a close game ”
miles was still chuckling to himself over mr Scott’s stupidity when someone behind him growled, “Don’t turn around!”
“What do you want ” asked miles in a panic. Whoever it was behind him had a deep voice and sounded scarey.
“I here you have a little bird problem—maybe I can take care of it for you,” said the stranger

Your total amount of money earned is $ ________________________________

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ANSWERS

Failures, I Think Not:

Michael Jordan: Didn’t make his high school basketball team, Steven Spielberg: Unsuccessfully applied to attend film school 3 times, Babe Ruth: Struck out 1330 times, Henry Ford: 2 unsuccessful businesses before founding a car company, Beethoven: Music teacher told him he was a hopeless composer, Walt Disney: Fired from a newspaper for his lack of ideas, Albert Einstein: Learnt to speak at a later age than average, Thomas Edison: His teacher told him he was too stupid to learn anything, J. K. Rowling: Her novel was rejected by 12 publishers, Marilyn Monroe: A film company fired her because “she couldn’t act”, Oprah Winfrey: Fired from a TV job because “she was deemed not suitable for television”, Bill Gates: Dropped out of Harvard University, Vincent Van Gogh: Only sold 1 painting during his lifetime.

Smart Jokes:

What did one DNA say to the other DNA? Do these genes make me look fat?

How do maths teachers tell off their children? “If I’ve told you n times, I’ve told you n + 1 times!”

Did you hear about the mathematician who is afraid of negative numbers? She’ll stop at nothing to avoid them.

What did the barman say when C, E-flat, and G walked into a bar? “Sorry, we don’t serve minors.”

What did the sign in the music shop say? Gone Chopin. Bach in a minute.

What did the Buddhist say when ordering a hamburger? “Make me one with everything.”

“Sorry, we don’t serve time travellers in here.” A time traveller walks into a bar.

How easy is counting in Binary? As easy as 1, 10, 11.

Why is 6 afraid of 7? Because 7, 8, 9!

Why didn’t the girl walk up the hill? She didn’t have the inclination.

League Ladder:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Davinal Dragons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davinal Biggers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepton Sharks</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Colbran Cockatoos</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Records:

- Lowest score in a game: St Kilda, 1 point (St Kilda 0.1 (1) v Geelong 23.24 (182), R17, 1899 (CO))
- Highest score in a game: Geelong, 239 points (Geelong 37.17 (239) v Brisbane 11.9 (75), R7, 1992 (C))
- Highest losing score: Geelong, 163 points (Geelong 25.13 (163) v Hawthorn 8.15 (171), R8, 1989 (PP))
- Highest winning score: Essendon, 163 points (Essendon 18.15 (123) v Melbourne 8.9 (57), Final, 1997 (LO))
- Highest score in a quarter: South Melbourne, 108 points (108 point scored in the 4th quarter, South Melbourne v St Kilda, R2, 1919 (LO))
- Most goals in a game by an individual: Fred Fanning (Melbourne), 18 goals (Melbourne 27.9 (171) v St Kilda 10.18 (78), R19, 1947 (JO))
- Most goals in a season: Bob Pratt (South Melbourne), 150 goals in 1934; Peter Hudson (Hawthorn), 150 goals in 1971
- Most career games: Michael Tuck (Hawthorn), 426 games
- Most consecutive games: Jim Stynes (Melbourne), 244 games (1987-98)

Money for Mistakes:

During the break Mr Scott took off Mo, Rosie, Sammy and Simon. “You guys have been fantastic but we need to give everyone a go,” he told them;

When Miles saw these star players heading to the bench at the start of the second quarter, he was thrilled;

“How pathetic is Greg Scott?” he sniggered. “What sort of idiot coach takes off some of his best players in a close game?”

Miles was still chuckling to himself over Mr Scott’s stupidity when someone behind him growled, “Don’t turn around!”

“What do you want?” asked Miles in a panic. Whoever it was behind him had a deep voice and sounded scary.

“I hear you have a little bird problem—maybe I can take care of it for you?” said the stranger;

Money earned: $200