

KICKING GOALS



with Goodesy and Magic

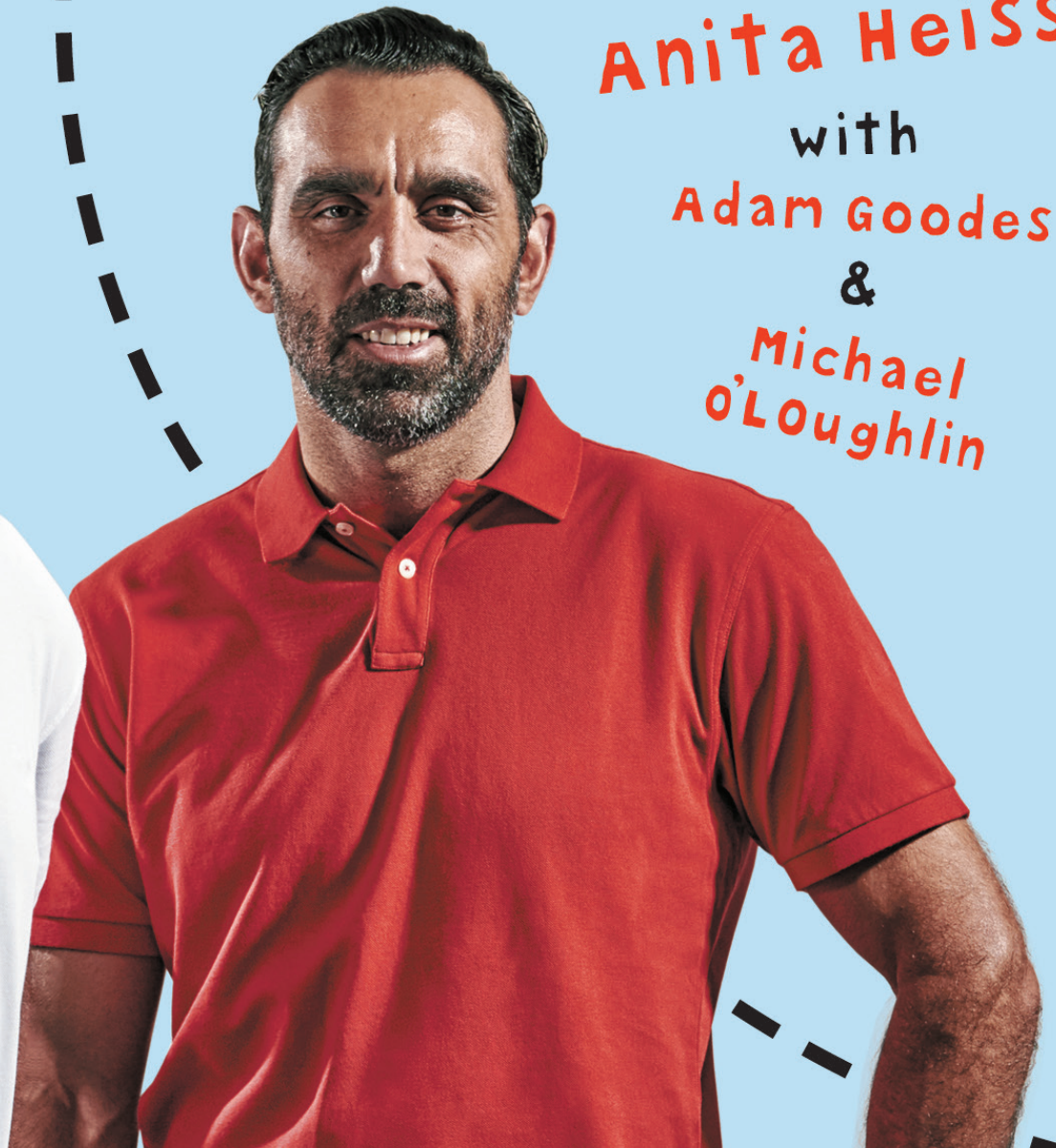
Anita Heiss

with

Adam Goodes

&

Michael
O'Loughlin



the **go** foundation

KICKING GOALS FOR LIFE

www.go-foundation.org

TEACHING NOTES BY BROOKE CLARK

About Brooke Clark

Brooke Clark is a senior editor with thirteen years' experience in book publishing. With in-house experience at Lothian Books (now part of Hachette), Lonely Planet Publications and Macmillan Education, as well as extensive freelancing experience, she has worked on books for both children and adults but her passion is children's books.

Kicking Goals with Goodesy and Magic

Anita Heiss with Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin

Synopsis

Anita Heiss interviews Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin, two of the best players the AFL's Sydney Swans have ever had. As well as being cousins, Adam and Michael are close friends. Anita talks to them about what their childhoods were like, what they wanted to be when they grew up, and how they came to be football players. She also talks to them about their close relationship, their other friendships and what leadership means to them.

Adam Goodes played 372 games for the Sydney Swans between 1999 and 2015. During that time he won two Brownlow Medals (in 2003 and 2006), was Australian of the Year in 2014, and was inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame in 2015.

Michael O'Loughlin played 303 games for the Swans between 1995 and 2009. He was twice named in the All-Australian Team, and in 2009 won the AFL Players' Association's Madden Medal for his contributions on and off the field.

Together, Adam and Michael run a foundation called the GO Foundation, which awards scholarships to Indigenous children to help them go to school.

When Adam Goodes was drafted to the Swans, Michael O'Loughlin was already playing for them. Although they were cousins, they had never met and didn't know they were related until Michael's mother told him. Michael contacted Adam when Adam was drafted to the Swans, and they quickly became close. Anita begins by asking Adam and Michael what friendship and family mean to them; they discuss the different ways to make friends, how friendships can change over time, what makes a good friend, and the difference between a friend and a family member.

Anita also asks about their relationship, and they discuss how they first met, what they like about each other and what they have in common.

Adam and Michael then go into detail about their childhoods: what their life was like back then, and what they did for fun. They talk about their school life, mischief they got into, and their school friends. We discover that even early on, their lives outside school revolved around sport, and that even before they knew they wanted to become AFL players, their aspirations related to sport: Adam wanted to be like the superstar NBA player Michael Jordan, and Michael also wanted to be an NBA player.

We then learn that both eventually found themselves drawn to play Australian Rules football and to try to make it as professional sportsmen.

From there, Anita asks Adam and Michael about their days playing with the Sydney Swans, and they reminisce about goals they kicked and times they spent with their teammates. They talk about what they believe makes a good leader in the AFL and in life, and discuss how you can show leadership among your classmates at school. Adam and Michael identify leaders they look up to, and what they admire about those people.

Finally, Anita asks them about their goals: how having clear goals led them to succeed as AFL players, and how they continue to set goals now, after retirement. Adam goes into detail about how he sets and revisits his goals regularly, and Michael talks about how even if you don't manage to achieve a goal, the important thing is that you gave it your best. We also get some insight into the goals they have currently set for themselves.

The book discusses the fact that Adam and Michael are Indigenous; however, this is not the focus of the book. Anita is more focused on two men as players and as people, as well as their friendships and leadership qualities.

Themes

This non-fiction book is aimed at children aged 9 to 11. It focuses on friendship, family, childhood, leadership and the work it takes to get to where you want to go.

Friendship

Adam and Michael discuss how they made friends as children, why friendships are important, and how you can be friends with someone even if you like very different things.

Family

The book talks about the difference between friends and family; it shows the importance of having family you can rely on, no matter what happens, and the fact that you never abandon your family. It also touches on the role of family and community for Indigenous people.

Childhood

Adam and Michael talk about their childhoods, school, what they did for fun, and the importance of sport in their lives as children.

Leadership

The book discusses the leaders that Adam and Michael have looked up to, and why they admire them. It also talks about what they think makes a great leader, and how different people can have different leadership styles. It also delves into what you can do to be a leader at school, and how part of that is the importance of supporting those who are being bullied.

Goal-setting

Adam and Michael talk about how important setting goals was for them as they worked to reach the elite level of Australian Rules football, during their careers as players in the AFL, and even today, after their retirement as sportsmen.

Writing Style

Anita Heiss has an approachable, down-to-earth writing style that children will find entertaining. She has written the book in an interview format, laid out as questions and answers; Anita poses questions throughout the book and follows with answers from Adam and Michael. This question-and-answer format makes for a non-threatening, easy-to-read book that reluctant readers will find interesting and enjoyable.

Similarly, Adam and Michael's answers are informal and direct. They clearly explain their thoughts on the different topics Anita focuses on.

Anita poses questions at the beginning of several of the chapters; for example, 'What do they think is the difference between family and friends, and what else do you need besides a good mate?', 'What did Adam and Michael want to be as kids?', '... who do they look up to? And what do they think it takes to be a good leader?' Anita also asks the reader directly, at the beginning of Chapter 3: 'What do you reckon? Are they telling the truth?' This strategy of asking questions gets readers thinking more deeply about what is being discussed in the book, and encourages them to relate the content to their own lives.

Learning Activities

These discussion points and activities are designed to assist teachers to present the book to their students. They encourage extended discussion and further thought about the content or style, and are not intended to be prescriptive.

CHARACTERS

Adam and Michael

1. Write five adjectives that describe Adam. Write five adjectives that describe Michael.
2. In groups, research Adam and Michael's GO Foundation. Find out what it does, and why it is important. Report your findings to the class.
3. In groups, research the Australian of the Year awards. What kinds of things have people done or achieved in order to become Australian of the Year? What do you think Adam did that helped him to become Australian of the Year?

Discussion point: How might growing up as Indigenous children have made it more difficult for Adam and Michael to achieve what they have achieved?

THEMES

Friendship

1. As a class, discuss and make a list of what makes someone a good friend. What makes someone not such a good friend?
2. Write an information text about friendship. Talk about your friends: how did you become friends? Why do you like them? What do you have in common? What do you have arguments about and how do you resolve conflict?

Discussion point: Have you ever had to tell a friend you don't approve of or agree with something they have done or said? Why?

Discussion point: Discuss an example of how Adam and Michael's friendship helped Adam, and an example of how their friendship helped Michael.

Family

1. In groups, discuss what different families can look like. Discussions may include the fact that in some families the father or mother may not be present; some

families may need to move around to find work; some families may have adopted children; and so on. Encourage students to discuss their own experience of family.

Discussion point: Why do you think family and community is so important within Indigenous communities? How is it different from the structures non-Indigenous communities have? Is one better than the other?

Discussion point: What do you think is the difference between a friend and a family member? If you can't abandon family in times of trouble, no matter what, why should it be any different for a friend?

Childhood

1. Write about your favourite memories. You might recount a family holiday, time spent with friends, a school camp or a sporting achievement.
2. Choose a local sporting team and design an advertisement encouraging children to enrol in that sport or join that team.

Discussion point: How might Adam's moving around as a child have affected him as a person? How might Michael's sense of community as a child have affected him as a person?

Discussion point: Is anything about the childhoods of either Adam or Michael similar to yours?

Leadership

1. In groups, research someone you believe is or was a great leader. What made them such a good leader? Present your findings to the class.
2. Think about whether you have any of the qualities of a good leader. Write about what you do that shows you are a good leader. What would you like to do more of?
3. Imagine Adam and Michael were going to give a speech at your school. What might they say about leadership? Write their speech.

Discussion point: Why does Adam say that supporting someone who is being bullied is a brave thing to do?

Goal-setting

1. Make a list of goals. Include goals for your school life, goals for sporting or other interests, and goals for your future. For each goal, write the things you might need to do to achieve that goal.
2. Think about a goal you have achieved. Write about what you did in order to achieve that goal, and what you might do differently next time. Also, write about a goal you had that you haven't yet managed to achieve. Could you change the goal a little to make it more achievable? What might you do differently in the future to help you to achieve that goal?

Discussion point: What goals would Adam and Michael have needed to set in order to make it as an AFL footballer at the highest level?

Discussion point: Why is it important to set goals for yourself?

WRITING ACTIVITIES

- Write a story from Adam's or Michael's point of view, set in their childhood.
- Write a book review of *Kicking Goals*.
- Write a profile of either Adam or Michael. Focus on their achievements as an adult, both on and off the football field.

Author Motivation

Anita Heiss

I think Adam and Michael are legends. Not just as football players but as leaders and role models in the community, for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians of all ages. I have only ever known them to be gentle, kind and incredibly funny. Very, very funny! And they are also deadly storytellers.

I have known them both for a number of years and have long been interested in working with them on something, a project. And what better project than a book about them?

Making it happen was as easy as calling and texting them both and asking, 'How about it?' Both jumped at the opportunity to do a book that would be valuable in the classroom, inspiring young kids to stay in school, follow their dreams and appreciate their friends and family.

I decided that it would be not only fun but interesting to ask Adam and Michael the same questions about their life growing up, their dreams and goals, their experiences as professional footballers and the story of their friendship. I interviewed them separately as I was keen to see how each of them told their shared story.

AMANDA JAMES



DR ANITA HEISS is the author of non-fiction, historical fiction, commercial women's fiction, poetry, social commentary and travel articles. She is a Lifetime Ambassador of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and a proud member of the Wiradjuri nation of central NSW. Anita was a finalist in the 2012 Human Rights Awards and the 2013 Australian of the Year Awards. She lives in Sydney.

PAUL LEONARDO



MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN was drafted to the Sydney Swans in 1994 and played the first of his 303 senior AFL games for the club the following year. He played in three AFL Grand Finals, was the club's best-and-fairest player in 1998, and was twice All-Australian and twice represented Australia in International Rules. A member of the AFL's Indigenous Team of the Century, Michael was a key player in the Sydney Swans' 2005 Premiership team.

PAUL LEONARDO



ADAM GOODES is an Andyamathanha and Norungga man born in Wallaroo, and made his senior AFL debut in 1999, and won the AFL Rising Star Award that year. Adam has achieved everything to which an AFL footballer can aspire. He is the games record holder with the Sydney Swans, has twice tasted Grand Final victory, has twice been the recipient of Australian Football's highest individual honour, the Brownlow Medal, has been named his club's best-and-fairest player three times, has earned All-Australian honours four times, has captained Australia against Ireland in International Rules football and is a member of the AFL's Indigenous Team of the Century. In recognition of his community involvement and his firm yet compassionate campaign against racism, Adam was named Australian of the Year in 2014.

AFL legends Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin are blood brothers and great mates. They are also two of the best footballers ever to play for the Sydney Swans. Between them, they played over 650 games and kicked over 900 goals.

But what were Goodesy and Magic like when they were kids? What kind of scrapes did they get into at school? And what was it like to go from being normal teenagers to AFL superstars?

Find out all this and much more in *Kicking Goals*, the story of Adam and Michael's friendship in their own words, as told to Anita Heiss.

Reading age: 9-11 years

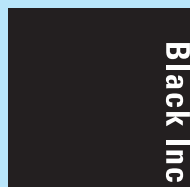
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