

CLASS ACTS

Compete to make your author
"BEST IN CLASS" with the
CLASS ACTS CHALLENGE!

YEARBOOK

MEET THE AUTHOR

Tim Green, a former NFL player with the Atlanta Falcons, has also found success as a prolific writer of football and baseball books aimed at the adolescent reader. His work has been recognized by the *New York Times* and recommended by accomplished athletes and coaches. Tim and his family reside in upstate New York. Visit him online at www.timgreenbooks.com.

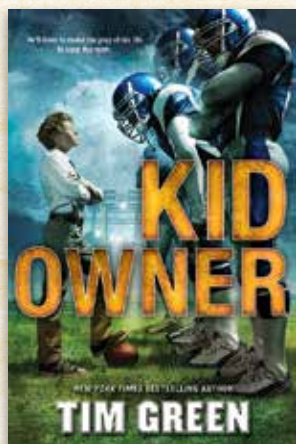


Tim Green
"Gridiron Giant"

Laure Lillie

ABOUT THE BOOK

Ryan is a typical twelve-year-old living a quiet, normal, and comfortable life with his mother when he learns that the father he never knew has died and left him ownership of the Dallas Cowboys. How will he respond to this challenge and how will he be able to maintain "normal" relationships with his middle school friends and classmates? And will he be able to compete with his stepmother and her son as they attempt to wrest ownership of the team from him?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The first sentence of this novel is "It's not easy to be different." What are some of the ways that Ryan feels different? How has that been hard for Ryan? Give examples from your own life of how being different has been difficult for you.
2. The two "F" words in Ryan's house are "father and football." Explain the different feelings Ryan and his mother have about these two words. Do you feel Ryan's mother was being fair to him? Why or why not?
3. In sharing conversation and companionship with his mother, Ryan feels "like seeds in the core of some wonderful shiny red apple." What does he mean? When members of a family love each other, how might they be considered "rich"?
4. Ryan says, "Sometimes, I blow my stack." Do you think this is "a flaw" in his character? Is he justified in reacting this way when his mother lies about letting him play football after playing soccer for three years? Why or why not? How do you feel when adults remember "the details" of an agreement differently than you do?
5. Ryan is twelve years old when he inherits the Dallas Cowboys and his mother tells him, "It's a lot easier to love the Cowboys than to own them." What message is she sending him? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
6. How do you think being the "kid owner" of the Dallas Cowboys affects Ryan's life as a middle school student? Consider and discuss some of the positives and negatives. Would you want to be in Ryan's place? Why or why not?

