

Introduction

'Fever Pitch' is the sixth in the BritLit series of resource kits for teachers.

The Project. The BritLit project was started in 2002 with the intention of providing Portuguese teachers of English in the state sector additional resource material for the extensive reading requirements of years 10 and 11. It is a joint venture between the British Council in Portugal and APPI (Associação Portuguesa de Professores de Inglês). While aimed at the Portuguese market, the usefulness of the project as an international model is recognised and generic versions of the resources kits are being developed.

The Resource Kits. Much of the material provided is intended to be used with mixed ability classes and while the input from the materials is the same, the output from the students will vary considerably. Other materials are generally classed according to their degree of difficulty using the ALTE levels now adopted by many European countries through the Council of Europe as benchmark criteria for language assessment. (http://www.alte.org/can_do/cef.cfm). The resource kits provide a never-ending source of material for the teacher inasmuch as teachers are asked to contribute their own experiences and ideas to the project; we would like to see the materials mutate and mature with use. One of the advantages of using an electronic form is that each section can easily be personalised; we would be interested to see examples of this approach.

This kit. 'Fever Pitch' is one of Nick Hornby's most popular works. Choosing it for BritLit meant a departure from the norm, if by the norm we mean the extensive reading list provided by the Portuguese Ministry of Education. The reason that BritLit has chosen this book is because the Final Tournament of the UEFA Cup, Euro 2004, is being hosted by Portugal, and BritLit wants to be part of the game.

'Fever Pitch' traces the story of the author from his first introduction to Arsenal Football Club through the trials and tribulations of over two decades as a devoted fan. Some read the book as a book about football. Some would say that the book is not about football at all, but about obsession, and about growing up. Whatever the reality, it has something for everyone, from the football sceptic to the passionate fan.

The kit consists of four parts, each divided into a number of worksheets and activities. Each worksheet or activity is independent of any other. All the material may be photocopied.

Special thanks to this kit go to Joe Mendes, Mark Howard, Emília Davies and, not least, to Rosemary Hilhorst whose idea it was.

Fitch O'Connell
Porto
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Section	Worksheet or Activity	Content	ALTE
<i>Characterisation</i>	The Narrator	Quotes from text introduce author	
	My Father and Me	Key relationship examined through text	
<i>Context</i>	We'll Support You Evermore	Who are football fans? Intensive reading and student orientated work	
	Football Chants	Chants from the terraces, from support to insult.	
	Poetry in Motion	Poetry from clubs, and links to making own poems	
	The Game Goes on.....	Historical view for fans, from 'The Road to Nab End' 1928	
	English Supporters = Hooligans?	Controversial area: contains many views, plus debate + good practice	
	Arsenal Football Club	Pair work activity looking at history of Nick Hornby's club	
	Book Review	Review of 'Fever Pitch' presented as MCQ gap fill	
	Nick Hornby Talks	Q and A section from an interview, plus discussion point	
	Football Community on-line	Access to internet required to complete exercises & join in	
	Junior Gunners	From a match programme, feature on young supporters	
<i>Extra Time</i>	Penalty Shoot Out	Comprehension of main text, set out as an in-class competition	
	Further Reading	Section from Anne Coddington book on women in football	
<i>Word Work</i>	Before the Past	Simple past or past perfect? Extracts from text plus exercises	
	Finished or Unfinished Time?	Simple past or present perfect? Extracts from text plus exercises	
	Of Which We Speak	Use of 'which' with and without prepositions. Extracts plus exercises	

