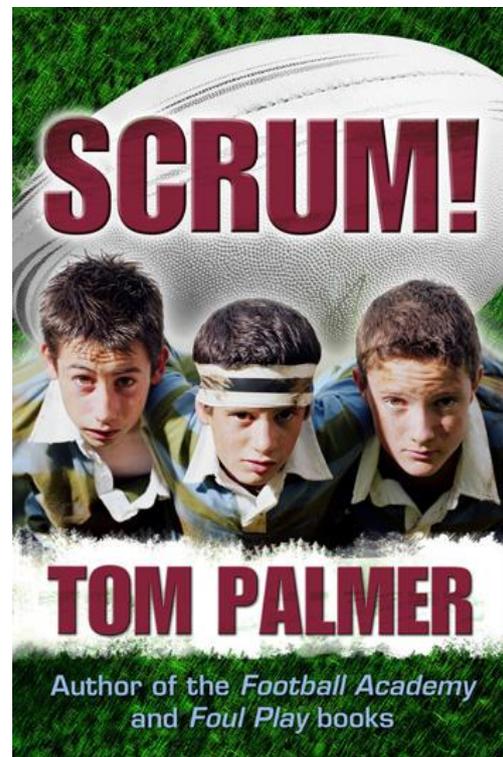
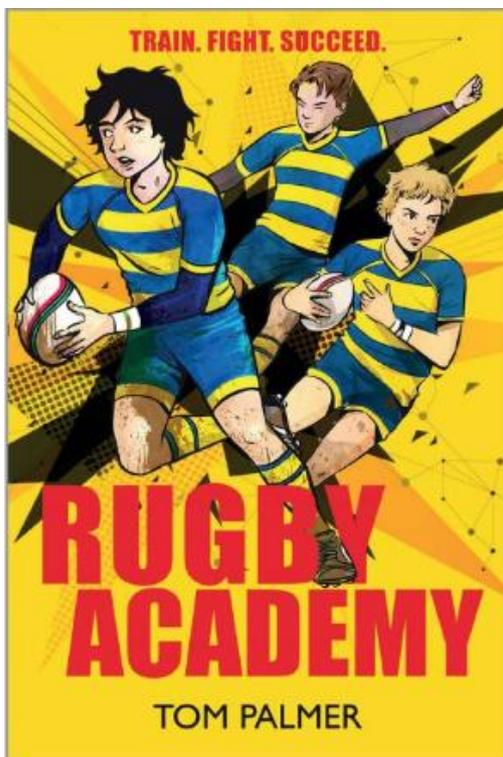




# Tom Palmer Rugby and Literacy Activity Pack

## RUGBY WORLD CUP 2019



Barrington  Stoke  
cracking reading

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/rugby-world-cup-2019](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/rugby-world-cup-2019)

# Dear Teacher or Librarian

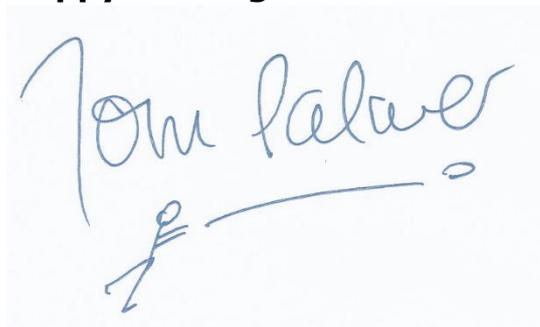
We have put together this bumper pack of exciting literacy activities to tie in with the Rugby World Cup and 2019-20 Rugby Season.

We hope it will be an effective tool in helping you to encourage children to enjoy reading and writing for pleasure. Also, that it may be useful to introduce or follow up a visit from Tom.

You are welcome to copy any of these pages, and the first chapters of *Rugby Academy*, *Scrum!* and first chapters of all of Tom Palmer's football books are available at [www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk).

For more free resources sign up to Tom's once-a-term literacy newsletter – please email [admin@tompalmer.co.uk](mailto:admin@tompalmer.co.uk)

**Happy reading!**



## You'll find in here:

About Tom Palmer	3
Tom Palmer interview	4
Writing Rugby Academy	5
Reading Rugby Academy	6
Rugby Academy Storylines	7
Reading Quizzes	8-11
<i>Scrum!</i> Storylines	12-13
<i>Scrum!</i> Literacy Exercises	14
My Own <i>Rugby</i> story	15
Draw My Own <i>Rugby</i> story	16
My Rugby Book Review	17
My Rugby Predictions	18
Rugby Reading Displays	19
Rugby Reading Activities	20
Rugby Visitors	21
Rugby League & Rugby Union	22
Rugby Quiz	23-24
Rugby Wordsearch	25
Suggested letter to send home with ten top tips to encourage reading	26
Answers	27-28
Further rugby reading	29

# About Tom Palmer

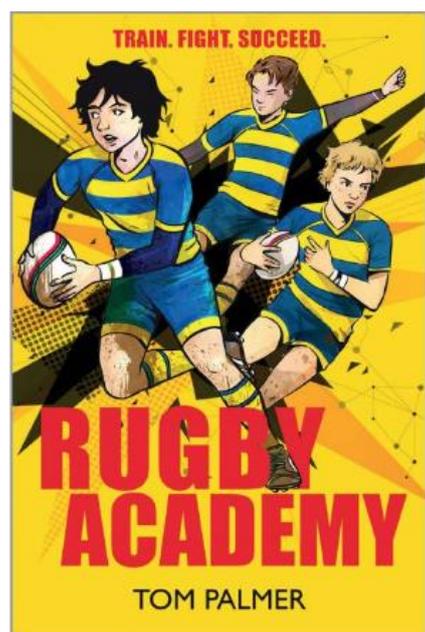
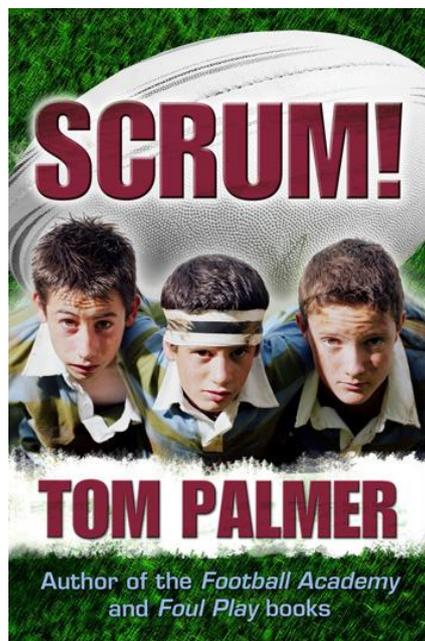
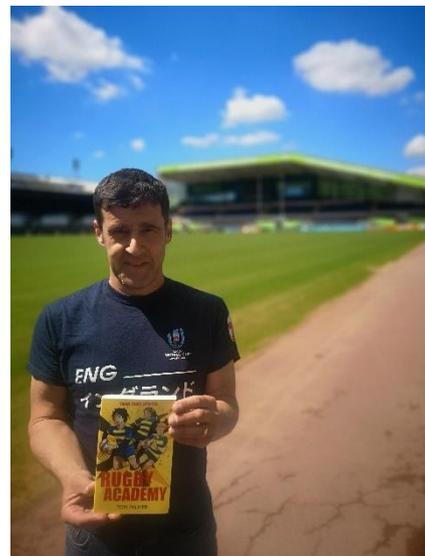
Tom Palmer is a sports fan and author. He lost interest in reading at school until his Mum introduced him to reading about sport – in newspapers, magazines and books. He later decided to be a sports fiction writer.

His first rugby book for Barrington Stoke – *Scrum!* – is about a boy called Steven who has to choose between rugby union and rugby league, between living in the north and the south and between his dad and his step dad.

Tom's new Rugby Academy series for older readers starts with *Combat Zone*. Footy mad Woody is the unhappy new boy at Borderlands, a boarding school for the children of British Forces personnel. But Woody's dad can't budge: a serious conflict has broken out in the Middle East and he is shipping out with the RAF any day. If only Woods can learn to fit in and play rugby union, Borderlands might make it to the British Schools' Rugby Championships.

Tom has written 49 books for Puffin and Barrington Stoke, including six *Football Academy* stories for younger children, five *Foul Play* adventures and several awardwinning historical children's novels including *Armistice Runner*, *Over the Line* and *D-Day Dog*. Read first chapters of all the books at [www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk).

Tom is also a specialist in promoting reading. He visits hundreds of libraries and schools every year up and down the UK, inspiring tens of thousands of young readers. He has worked frequently for the National Literacy Trust, the Reading Agency, Booktrust and the British Council.



# Tom Palmer Interview

## What books have you enjoyed reading about rugby?

I love *The Flea Thing* by Brian Faulkner and *The Rugby Zombies* by Dan Anthony. Also histories of both rugby union and rugby league.

## How did you become a writer?

I started by writing a diary, then poems and stories. Once I got confident I tried to write whole books.

## Why did you swap from writing about football to writing about rugby?

Rugby-loving children in places Hampshire and Leeds, South Wales and Northampton asked me to, because there was nothing for them.

## Where is the weirdest place you have played rugby?

I had a game in the Sahara Desert in 1998 when I was on a walk raising money for charity. At midday. I'm on the left. You can see the camels behind us. Hard core rugby! I even scored a try.



## Which rugby teams do you support, and why?

Leeds Carnegie, Leeds Rhinos and Hunslet. I come from Leeds.

## Who is your favourite rugby player?

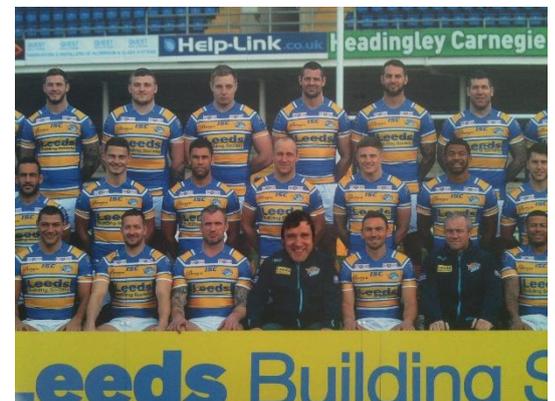
Danny Care because he scored the First England try I saw at Twickenham and because he is from Leeds

## Where is *Scrum!* set?

The north and south of England.

## What else do you like to do when you are not writing?

I like talking in schools and I like fell running. But my favourite thing is to be with my family.



# Writing Rugby Academy

## Where?

Rugby Academy is set in three countries that are obsessed with rugby union: England, France and New Zealand. I visited all to research the books, watching schools training in New Zealand and even Toulon's first team training at their city's home ground. On tour, a rugby team immerse themselves in the countries they visit, so I did the same to see those places through my characters' eyes.



## Who?

Before I wrote the Rugby Academy trilogy I read many rugby player autobiographies. Each inspired different characters. Jonny by Jonny Wilkinson gave me lots of ideas about the Rory character in Surface to Air. Woody was inspired by Clive Woodward's memories of being a boy in his book Winning: before he went on to coach England to win the 2003 World Cup. Biographies are a great way of helping authors to devise characters and their motivations.

## What?

Rugby Academy is about a team of rugby playing boys whose parents are in the RAF as a conflict is breaking out in the Middle East. As a result I needed to research both rugby union at a school level – watching Crossley Heath U15s in Halifax weekly in 2013-14. But I also needed to know more about the RAF. I read books about air wars to design my own fictional air war to use as a backdrop for the books. I also spoke to RAF personnel and their children.



## When?

All the places I visited for settings for the Rugby Academy books are described as they are now, around 2015.

## Why?

I wanted to write Rugby Academy because teachers were asking me to follow up my football fiction with a rugby series as no one had yet written one.

## How?

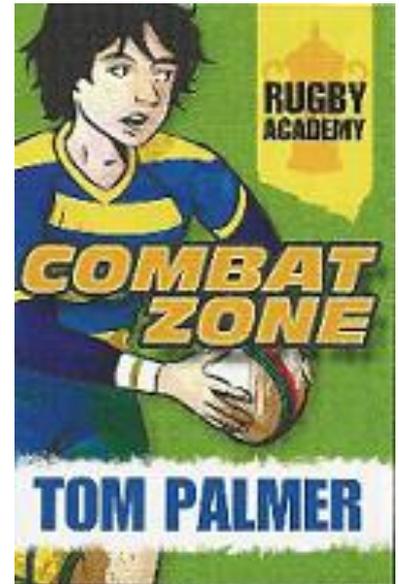
I was interested in what it would be like to be the child of a forces parent. I talked to children and their RAF parents and they were extremely generous with their time and talked to me about very emotional issues. Then, once written, I tested the books on RAF families I knew and they told me what I had got right and what I got wrong: then I changed the books to make them more accurate.



# Reading Rugby Academy

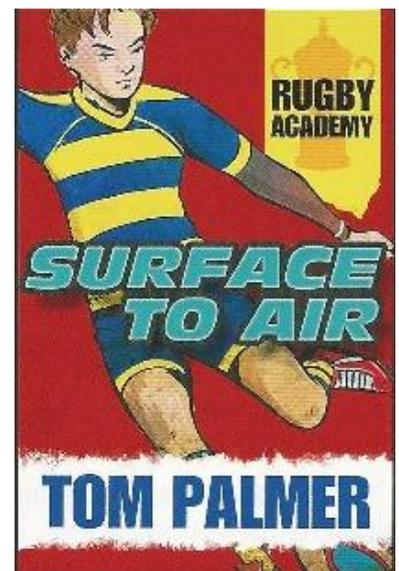
## Combat Zone

Borderlands is no ordinary school - all of the students boarding there have parents in the armed forces, and the UK is drawing perilously close to war in the Middle East. New boy Woody is desperate to escape the school and find his way to his dad's military base, but his dad has been mobilised. He's gone. Worried and unhappy, Woody turns to the only thing that could help get him through - rugby.



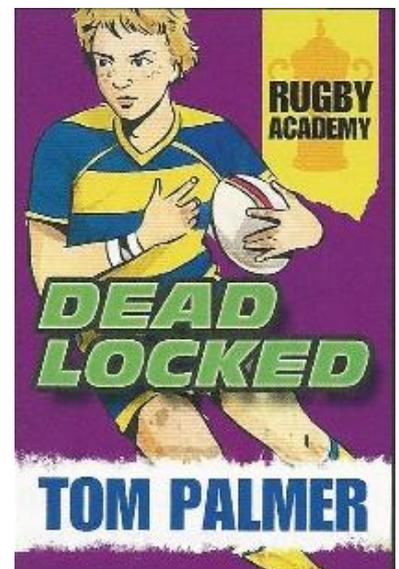
## Surface to Air

The conflict in the Middle East is hotting up as Borderlands head for Toulon and the European Schools' Rugby Championship. Rory is finding it tough to keep his mind on the game; he's out of his routine and everywhere he turns TV screens are showing him scenes of warfare that remind him of the danger his mum faces every day. Rory's not the only one feeling it, either. Can the Borderlands team pull together in time to lift the trophy?



## Deadlocked

The Borderlands team has made it to the World Championships in New Zealand, but the strain of divisions within the squad and worry for their Forces parents' safety have the boys well and truly rattled. Can they pull it together and bring the trophy home? A sporting story set against the backdrop of war and the effect of conflict on the families of those serving overseas.



# Rugby Academy Storylines

## Parents in Forces

Combat Zone begins with Woody's dad driving him to his new school. His dad is in the RAF and is about to be posted to a war zone where he will put his life in danger. This is something tens of thousands of children in the UK – and around the World – have to live with. It is hard to imagine your mum or dad going off to work abroad for six or more months under the constant threat of danger. To research what it might be like, I spoke to families on RAF Cosford airbase and at a school in Edinburgh. To the children of forces parents – and to the parents themselves.

## Rugby v Football

Woody joins Borderlands School in Combat Zone, disliking rugby at the beginning. He is a very good footballer and has been scouted by some top flight clubs. But in a school that plays rugby he meets some people who also love football and others who despise it. He has his own prejudices about a sport he does not understand, but as he learns more about the game he begins to enjoy it. Before writing the book I didn't know a lot about rugby union, but in learning about it myself I now respect it far more and now – sometimes – even prefer it to football, my first sports love.

## Reading Issues

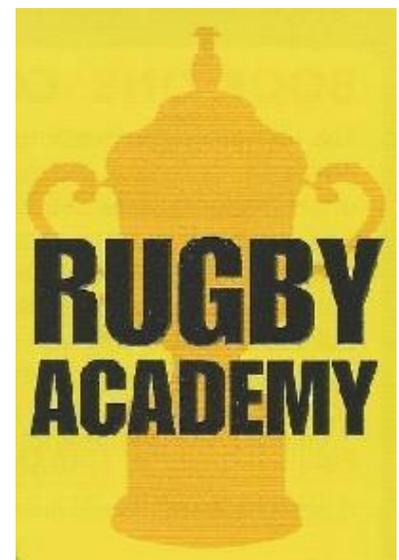
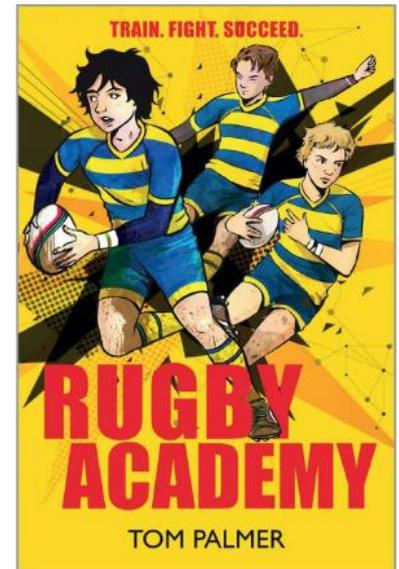
In Deadlocked, Owen struggles with reading and needs extra help at school, even now that he is age 15. The school librarian is specially trained to assist children with dyslexia and other reading issues. Some of Owen's school mates support his struggle. Others tease him.

## Perfectionism

Rory is a perfectionist. He wants his kicking game to be perfect in Surface to Air. That is impossible in the real world, but that's what he aims for. Most of the time – therefore – he is uneasy and sometimes unhappy. His character is based on the first chapters of Jonny Wilkinson's book, Jonny. Many great sports people and other high achievers are perfectionists. They just can't rest until everything is right. Sometimes it is a nightmare to live with, but it often eventually leads to success.

## Disrespect

Rugby is interesting because there is a huge respect for the referee and for the opposition. Occasionally the game spills over, but most of the time everyone is very respectful of each other. They know that the world – and children – are watching and that they are role models. In Deadlocked, Jesse disrespects the New Zealand Haka – in their own country where they are guests – and it leads to a conflict within his team.

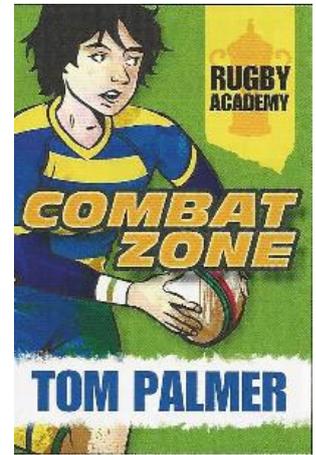


# READING QUIZ

## Rugby Academy 1: Combat Zone

by Tom Palmer

From Chapter 1



*The silver BMW made a sharp swerve left to avoid the deer that stood frozen in its headlights. Woody held his breath. A part of him wished the car had come off the road. But only so that the journey would stop – he didn't have a death wish or anything like that.*

*But the car didn't come off the road. Woody watched his dad's arms tense as he controlled the car with perfect skill. That was how Woody's dad always drove. It was part of who he was.*

*A man who liked to travel at speed.*

*A fighter pilot in the RAF.*

*Woody stared out of the car window. Its headlights lit up the forest on either side of the road. Thick tree-trunks flashed by.*

*"I don't want to do this," Woody said. "I liked my old school. I liked my friends. I'm just about to start my GCSEs."*

*His dad didn't take his eyes from the road.*

*"Borderlands is a great school," he said. "It was my school. You'll make new friends. You'll play lots of sport."*

*"The wrong sport," Woody snapped.*

*His dad paused before he spoke again.*

*Woody knew he was working out what to say so that he could win the argument.*

*"Rugby is a wonderful game," his dad said at last. "I learned more from rugby than you'll ever learn playing soccer. And the school runs a serious rugby academy now."*

1 What sort of animal did Woody's Dad swerve to miss?

2 When are they travelling?

3 What job does Woody's dad have?

4 How old roughly do you think Woody is?

5 Which sport do you think Woody is calling "the wrong sport"?

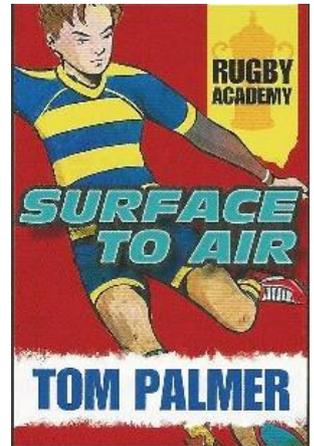
6 Why does Woody's dad pause before speaking?

# READING QUIZ

## Rugby Academy 2: Surface to Air

by Tom Palmer

From Chapter 1



*Rory stared in horror from the back seat as the bus he was travelling in veered the wrong way round a roundabout. He closed his eyes, held onto the seat in front of him and waited for the collision.*

*A few seconds later, Rory opened his eyes again. Everything was fine. He was an idiot. And he knew it. He was just going to have to accept the fact that he was in France and French people drive on the wrong side of the road.*

*It wasn't the only new thing to get used to. The billboard ads flashing past were for products Rory couldn't place. And the music on the bus radio was all stuff he'd never heard before.*

*At home, when Rory and his mum had looked at the town of Toulon on a map, they'd seen that it was by the sea on the south coast of France. So Rory had expected it to be a place of beaches and palm trees. He had not expected warehouses and dual carriageways, traffic jams and beeping horns. Rory couldn't even tell his mum about it. She was thousands of miles away, working for the RAF in the Central Asian Republic. Or somewhere.*

*To clear his mind of his troubles, Rory scanned the horizon for rugby posts. If he saw rugby posts, he'd be able to imagine kicking the ball over them. And that would help him relax.*

*Rory's two best friends from school – Owen and Woody – were on the back seat next to him. The three of them were travelling with the rest of the school rugby team to take part in a tournament. Their school – Borderlands – was representing the UK against a team from France, a team from Russia and a team from Italy. They were competing to be European Schools Rugby Champions.*

1 Where is Rory sitting on the bus?

2 Why does Rory feel like an idiot after the roundabout?

3 How did Rory find out where Toulon is?

4 Is Toulon how Rory is expected it to be?

5 In the phrase, "Rory scanned the horizon for rugby posts", what does "scanned" mean?

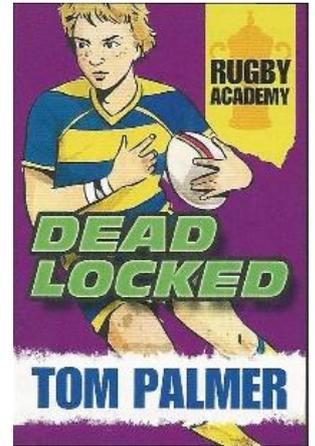
6 Which school is representing the UK in the European Schools Rugby Championship?

# READING QUIZ

## Rugby Academy 3: Deadlocked

by Tom Palmer

From Chapter 1



*When the plane had taken off from Heathrow and the seatbelt signs had gone off, Miss Evans leaned across and handed Owen a book.*

*“What’s this, Miss?” Owen said. He knew the question sounded daft as he asked it.*

*“A book,” Miss Evans said. “For you.”*

*Owen turned it over in his hands and smiled. A present from Miss Evans. That was kind. Really kind. But it was a book.*

*Deep down inside, Owen had that feeling he always had when books were involved. The churning worry that he wouldn’t be able to finish it. But he wouldn’t give in to that this time. Miss Evans had given him this, and he could see that it wasn’t just any book. It was called Calon and the cover was a red Welsh rugby shirt. If there was any book in the world he wanted to read, then this was it. “Thank you, Miss,”*

*Owen said, as the plane dipped to the left and they headed over the clouds towards the Equator and on to New Zealand. Owen wasn’t the only 15-year-old boy on the flight. There was a whole bunch of them, including his two best mates from Borderlands – Woody on his left and Rory on his right. All three were members of the school rugby team, and they were heading to Auckland to take part in the 4-team World Schools Rugby Trophy. Owen couldn’t believe it was really happening.*

*One of the main reasons they were here was sitting in the seat in front of them. Jesse. The team captain. Their star player. Jesse had just signed an under-16 contract with Toulon in France. He was exceptional on the pitch. But he was also an idiot off it. Not someone to get on the wrong side of.*

1 Which airport are they travelling from?

2 What does Miss Evans wait for before she handed Owen a book?

3 How does Owen feel about books?

4 Which colour top is the player wearing on the cover of the book Owen is holding?

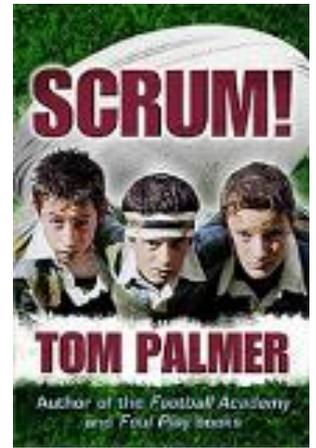
5 How many teams are competing in the World Schools Rugby Finals?

6 Who is sitting in front of Owen?

# READING QUIZ

## Scrum! by Tom Palmer

### From Page 2



*Steven saw the other player come from the left. He stepped up his pace until he was running fast. Very Fast.*

*That was all it took. Pace.*

*The other player, a winger, was left behind. He was so far behind that Steven could run back to the middle and dive over the goal line between the posts.*

*They won the game.*

*“That was fantastic, son”, said Steven’s dad in the car on the way back to Leeds after the game. He was on a high.*

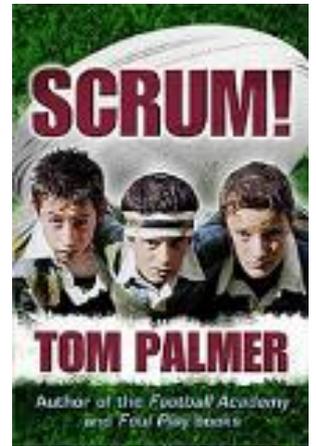
*“You were the best player on that pitch by a mile”, his dad went on. “It’s only a matter of time before some club comes and snaps you up. A Super League club.”*

*Steven smiled and looked at his dad. He loved this. His dad was so sure that one day Steven would be a famous Rugby League player.*

1	Was the other player coming from Steven’s right or left?
2	What position did the other player play?
3	Where did Steven dive over the goal line?
4	Who collected Steven?
5	What city were they going to?
6	What sort of club did Steven’s dad think would snap him up?
7	How did Steven feel about his dad’s belief that he would be famous?

# Scrum! Storylines

The fictional story of *Scrum!* has lots of storylines that could be useful to discuss in class with different age groups.



## **Divorce / parents splitting up**

- pp. 4-5 What did Steven hope for his parents? What did Steven think his dad wanted?
- p. 38 How is Steven feeling about going home to the north?
- p. 40 Why doesn't he tell his dad the real reason why he's tired?
- pp. 58-59 How does Steven's mum respond to Steven being cross with his Dad?
- pp. 61-62 What makes Steven want to call his dad? How does Steven feel when he sees his dad's car?
- pp. 63-65 Why is Steven's dad upset? Who has Steven's dad turned to for support? How does Steven feel to see his dad upset?

## **Having a new parent**

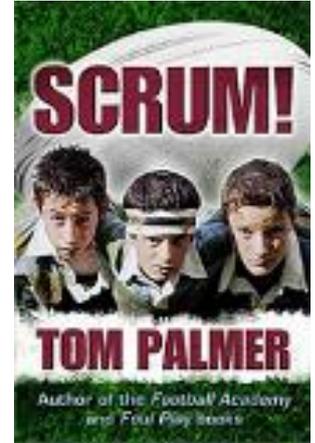
- pp. 5-6 How does Steven's dad react to the other car and why?
- p. 8 What different feelings does Steven have towards Martin than he does for his dad?
- p. 30 How does Steven feel about being called 'Martin's lad' and why?
- pp. 58-60 How does Martin respond to Steven being cross with his dad? Does it surprise you?
- pp. 65-71 Where do Martin and Steven's dad go at the end of the book and why?

## **Moving home**

- p. 4 How often does Steven see both his parents?
- pp. 11-12 How do you think Steven feels about moving?
- p. 14 What does Steven do to help himself calm down?
- p. 16 Who does Steven choose to talk to about the move and why?
- pp. 19-22 What good has come out of the move for Steven? How is Steven feeling? How does Steven imagine his dad feels?

## **Starting a new school**

- pp. 25-26 How does Steven feel on his first day at his new school?
- p. 31 What is different about his new school?
- p. 42 How do we know Steven is settling into his new life?



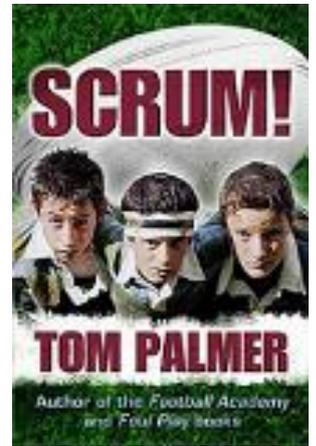
## **North v South**

- p. 17 How does Craig think all southerners talk? Why does he think that?
- p. 18 How does Craig think all southerners behave?

## **Rugby code & family loyalty**

- pp. 1-4 What sort of rugby does Steven play at the beginning of the book?
- p. 17 What sort of rugby do they play where he is moving to?  
How will Steven carry on playing?
- pp. 23-24 Does Steven want to go to the rugby union match? Why?
- p. 30 How does Steven react to being asked to play rugby union? Why?
- pp. 32-35 What is the different rule Steven forgets about playing Rugby Union?  
How does he feel when he realises he made a mistake?  
How does he feel when he's invited to play again?
- pp. 45-46 How does Steven think his dad would feel about him playing Rugby Union?
- pp. 48-49 What is significant about the hotel?
- pp. 51-56 How does Steven play in the rugby league match?  
Why does Steven think he played differently?  
Why does Steven tell his dad he's played Rugby Union?  
How does Steven's dad react to this news?  
How does Steven feel after telling his dad?

# Scrum! Literacy Activities



**Chapter 1** Imagine you are reporter interviewing Steven after his match. What questions would you ask? Work with a partner to take it in turns to be the reporter and the player.

**Chapter 2** In groups of three take it in turns to read out the dialogue between Steven, his Mum and Martin. Now imagine other ways the conversation might have gone and write one of them up like a play.

**Chapter 3** What would you say in a letter or text to Steven to cheer him up? You could share with him a time when you've felt low but remind him how things got better.

**Chapter 4** Write a timetable for Steven to help him organise himself to get to Leeds in time on Saturday morning, from what time he needs to set his alarm to when he should arrive in Leeds.

**Chapter 5** There seem to be too many things going round in Steven's head. Help him work through his feelings by writing a diary entry for him.

**Chapter 6** Write a match report for the school newspaper or website about Steven's debut rugby union match.

**Chapter 7** Steven is travelling home by train. Write a poem, perhaps using the rhythm of the train. You could base it on what you imagine Steven sees out the window or how he is feeling physically or emotionally.

**Chapter 8** Imagine Steven's dreams that night after being told he might play for his country one day. (Draw some empty thought bubbles and write/draw in them what Steven dreamt about, or create a timeline of events that shows all the things that Steven needs to do to help him achieve his dream.)

**Chapter 9** Write a description of The George Hotel for a hotel leaflet. You could focus on its history or try to describe the building's physical appearance.

**Chapter 10** After he stormed off, what do you think Steven's Dad wished he'd said instead. How do you think he would have preferred the conversation to have gone? Imagine the scout's conversations with Steven's dad. (Create a comic strip version of these conversations.)

**Chapter 11** What messages do you think Steven's dad left on the phone for him? (Using blank templates of an iPhone screen, write the messages down in order.)

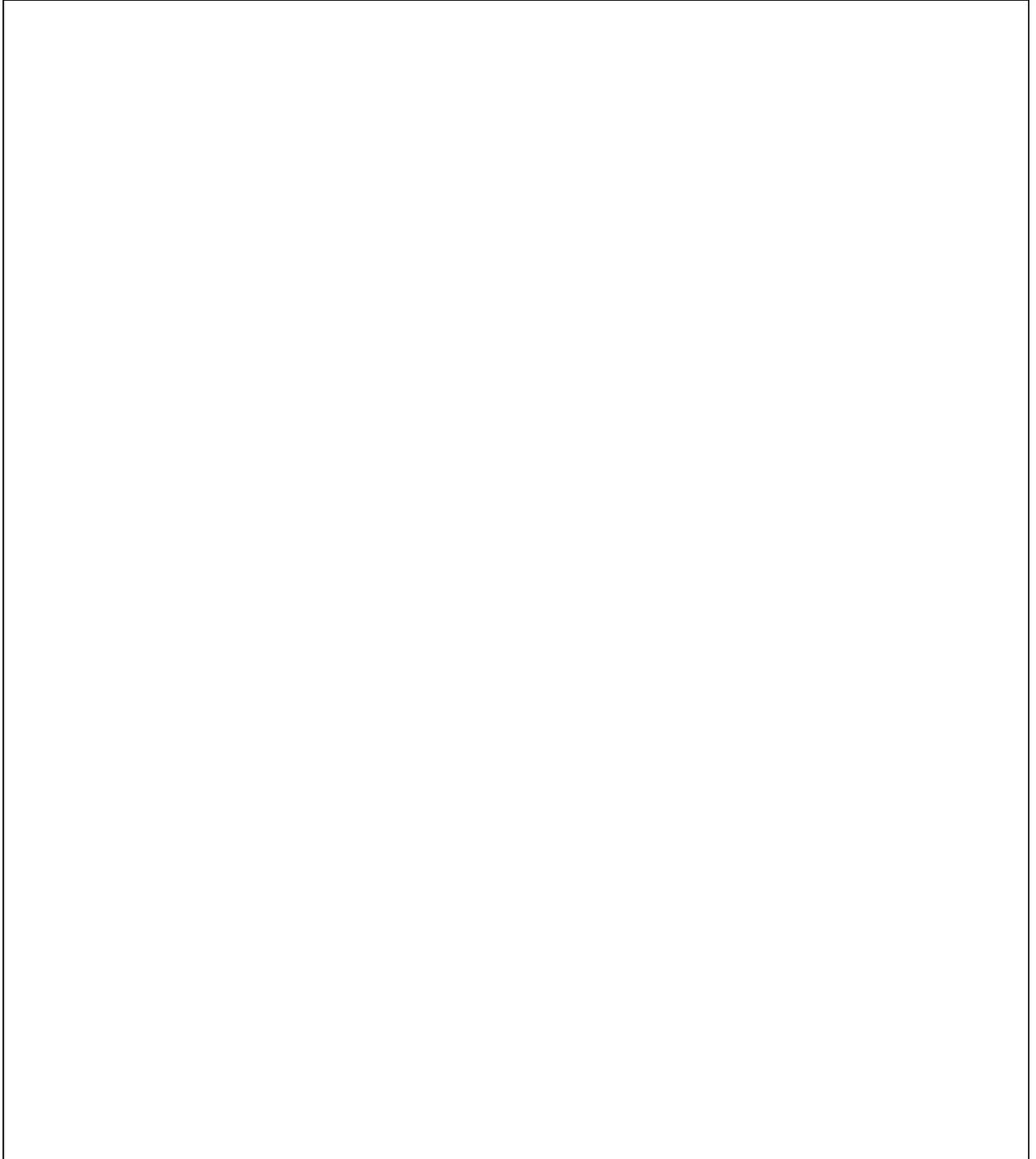
**Chapter 12** What might have happened if Steven's dad had arrived shouting rather than crying? (Construct a flow diagram to show your predicted events.)

**Chapter 13** What do you think happened next? (Plan or write your own short story.)



# Draw My Own Rugby Story

Use the space below to draw your favourite character, an important setting or even a cover for one of the new books from Rugby Academy or Scrum!



# My Rugby Book Review

**These questions may help you:**

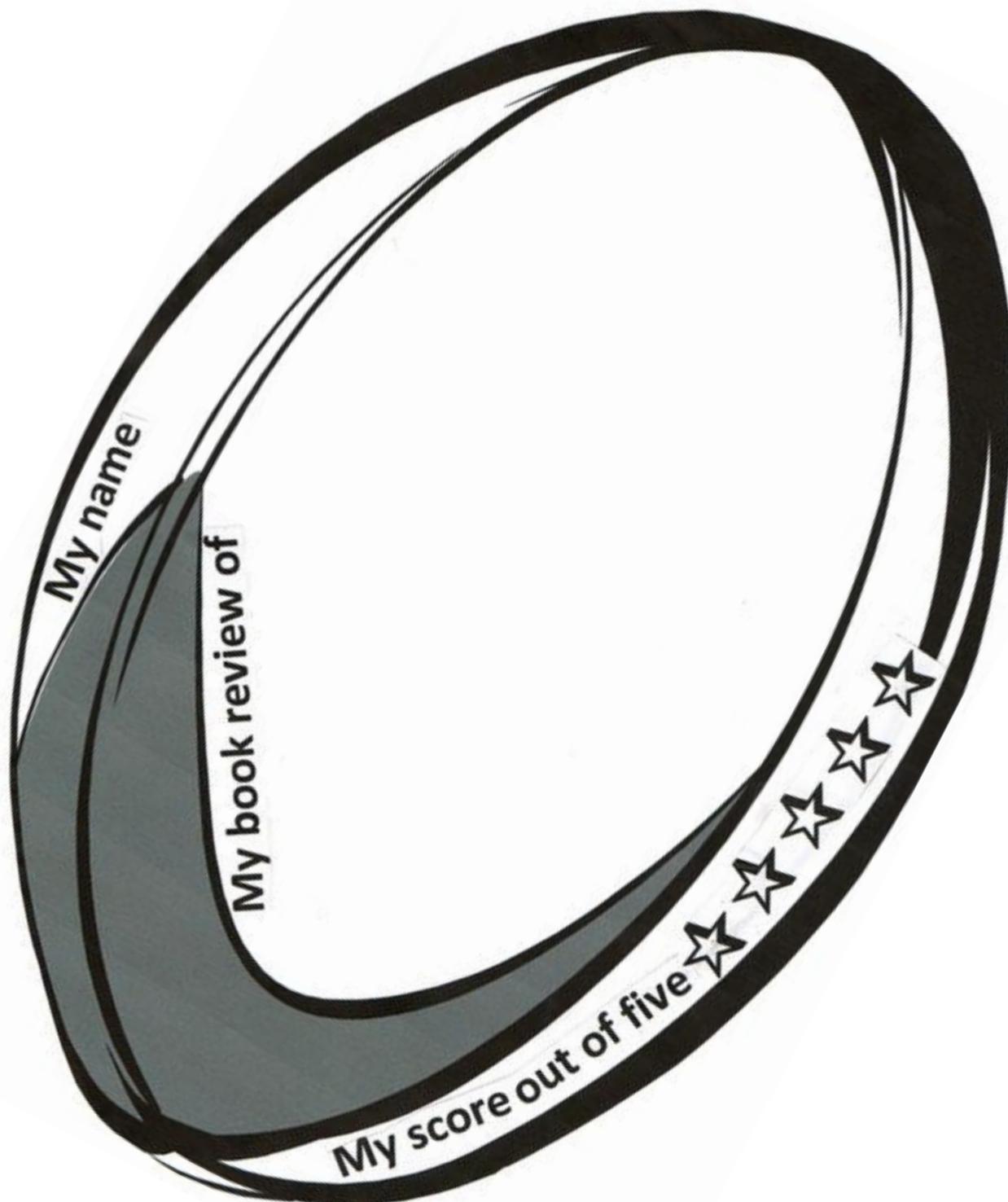
What did you like best about it?

Did anything surprise you in the story?

Did you like the ending?

Who was your favourite character and why?

**Now cut it out to display, you could even make a mock rugby goal.**



# Rugby Prediction Game

Test your rugby knowledge with this rugby prediction game! It is ideal to run over the whole school year. But you can adapt your own quiz so that you can run it over a competition like the World Cup or Six Nations or even one weekend's rugby matches. Also, there are two spaces at the end of the sheet for your class to choose things they would like to try and predict. Here are Tom's predictions for 2019-2020. See if you can beat him. You can ask him what his predictions are for your class idea by emailing [info@tompalmer.co.uk](mailto:info@tompalmer.co.uk) .

## Rugby Union

Can you predict ...	Your prediction	Tom's prediction
Winner of Premiership		<b>Saracens</b>
Relegated from Premiership		<b>London Irish</b>
Winner of European Champions Cup		<b>Exeter</b>
Winner of RBS Six Nations		<b>Ireland</b>
Winner of World Cup		<b>New Zealand</b>
[Your class's idea for something else to predict]		
[Your class's idea for something else to predict]		

# Rugby Reading Displays

A rugby reading display could be a great way of getting children to engage more with reading. Choose a good time for the display: the beginning of the season, a major cup final, the Six Nations. Or a key game or tournament for your school. Here are some ideas for elements of a display you could set up in your school:

- 🏈 the week's match reports, especially of games involving local clubs
- 🏈 statistics should be the centre of the display – an easy-to-look-at chart that details match results and league tables will be the first thing people look at
- 🏈 pictures from magazines or from the internet
- 🏈 images of your children and teachers – particularly well-known rugby fans - reading their favourite books or magazines
- 🏈 the first chapter of *Scrum!* by Tom Palmer
- 🏈 an old rugby shirt or a pair of boots to go on a table next to the display
- 🏈 reviews of rugby books and magazines by children and staff (perhaps on a rugby ball shaped piece of paper)
- 🏈 photographs of the school rugby team in their kit, out in the fields, but holding rugby books, magazines and newspapers while in a scrum at a line out, scoring a try
- 🏈 a daily or weekly quiz or puzzle for the children to guess the answer to

Then lay out a selection of rugby books, magazines and newspapers – even a laptop with rugby websites in front of the display to tempt children.

Photos courtesy of Marine Academy, Tor Bridge High, Bromley Libraries & North Durham Academy



# Rugby Reading Activities

## Pass the Book

Rugby is a game to do with passing the ball from hand to hand. Choose a book to read as a class read. It could be a novel – or non-fiction. Then ask the children to throw it – rugby-style – to one another. Once a child catches it, they have to read a page, then pass it on. This could be a way of giving a lift to a traditional read-around-the-classroom activity.

## The Haka

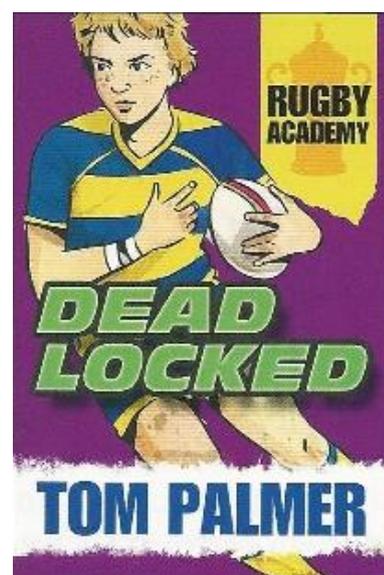
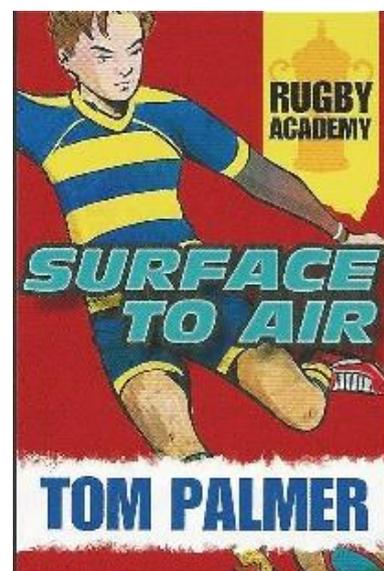
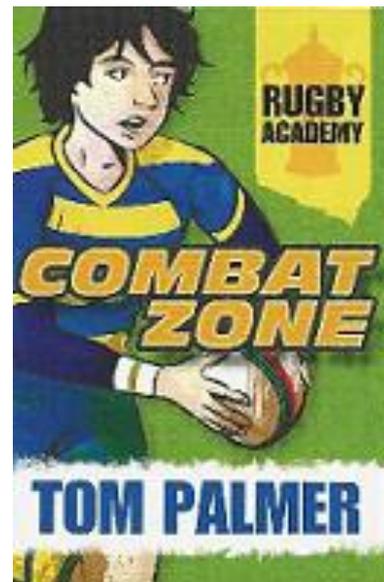
The Haka is an unusual pre-match display performed by some rugby union nations, such as New Zealand. They stand and chant at their opponents. Most children find the Haka fun to watch and even perform. But you could add a reading dimension to this. Ask the children to choose an author they like, even giving them a week or so to read the book. Put them in teams, each team to represent an author. Ask them to choose reasons they like the author. Work with them to produce a poem or chant to present in the style of the Haka. Stage a Haka slam, where the best Haka wins a prize – do it in front of the whole school or parents

## Video Ref

The video ref is an extra official on the pitch that has to decide, by looking at video footage, if a try was a legal try. They watch the footage, deliberate, then deliver a verdict. Try or No Try. Ask the children to take on this role, but to give their verdict on a book. Rather than writing a review on paper, they have to deliver it to camera. Show the videos in assemblies, on the school website and in other places.

## Match reports

Cut out a match report on one of the key games in the tournament. Then go through it and find up to ten words to black out. Choose ones that the children might be able to guess, like sporting clichés, players' names or any other words you might be focussing on in class, such as connectives, etc. Now challenge the children to guess as many of the missing words as they can.



# Rugby Visitors

One of the most successful events you could do is to have a visitor come into school. Someone who can talk about rugby and reading. Someone who can inspire the children. Any outsider who is invited into school can give the children a new perspective on things and can create excitement.

## An author

Authors can be very inspiring visitors: they can talk about how they write, what motivates them to write, how reading is central to their being writers. Also, they can do writing workshops. Most authors have websites so that you can contact them directly.



## A journalist

If you can encourage a local or national journalist to come to your school and talk it can be really inspiring. The children can hear about their job, how they go to watch sport, read about it, write about it and get paid to do it. How they meet players and go to games all over the country. Get in touch with them through the newspaper they write for.



## A rugby personality.

Is there someone who lives nearby that has some role in rugby? A player? A coach? A commentator? They don't need to be with a major club. It could just be a player from a local team. If you can find such a person they could be invited into school to talk about their role in rugby, what they know, and, most importantly, what they like to read about the game and how it helps them.

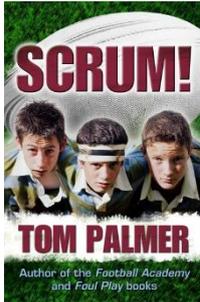


# Rugby League & Rugby Union

Rugby **League** and Rugby **Union** are both popular sports in the UK and many other countries. Rugby Union has been played for 200 years and Rugby League for over 100 years. League split off from Union at a famous meeting in the George Hotel in Huddersfield, which is featured in *Scrum!* by Tom Palmer.



Rugby League and Rugby Union play with the same oval ball and with the same 'H' shaped goals at each end. Points are scored in both by scoring **tries**, where the ball is touched down over the try line, or kicking the ball between the **posts**. That's were the similarities end. Here's a handy guide to understanding the differences:

	Rugby League	Rugby Union
<b>Where is it played in UK?</b>	Mostly in the north of England but in other places too.	Best known in the midlands, the south and in Wales and Scotland.
<b>When is it played?</b>	Summer	Autumn, Winter, Spring
<b>How is it played ...?</b> <b>Scrum - players from both sides push against each other</b>	Scrum are used to restart the game but are uncontested... Players 13 in each team My books Steven starts playing Rugby League but has to switch codes to Rugby Union. The boys in Rugby Academy play Rugby Union	Players from both sides push against each other to win the ball
<b>Tackles - a player has to release the ball to a team mate if they are brought to the ground by an opponent</b>	A team can only be tackled six times before handing the ball over to the other team.	The players use maul and rucks (where they push each other) to try to win the ball.
<b>Players</b>	13 in each team	15 in each team
<b>My books.</b>	Steven starts playing Rugby League but has to switch codes to Rugby Union. 	The boys from Borderlands School in Rugby Academy play Rugby Union. 

# Rugby Quiz

This is a selection of questions for use in or out of the classroom. They get harder in each group of five. You can find the answers in by reading about rugby in newspapers, magazines and books. (You can check your answers on Page 18).

1 Where is a player is sent for ten minutes if he does a deliberate foul?

2 How many players are there in an adult rugby union team?

3 Who kicked England's winning points in the 2003 Rugby World Cup Final?

4 What is the name of the rugby union European club trophy?

5 Which country do the club Toulouse play in?

6 Which 4 nations compete in the Southern Hemisphere Rugby Championships?

7 Which team won the 2015 Men's Rugby Union World Cup?

8 What is the name of the move when a ball is thrown from the side of the pitch to two sets of players?

9 What is it called when a player fumbles the ball when trying to catch it?

10 Six countries enter the Northern Hemisphere's Six Nations tournament. Can you name them all?

11 Which country was the first to win the Rugby Union World Cup?

12 What year was the first rugby international match played?

13 What is it called when one team beat all the other five in the Six Nations competition?

14 Which country won both the first Five Nations and the first Six Nations tournaments?

15 What does it mean if the referee puts both hands over his head?

16 Which two teams compete for the Calcutta Cup?

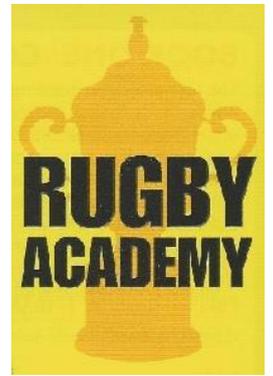
17 Which former player wrote about his rugby career and his dyslexia in "The Hardest Test"

18 What is the name of the boy who is supposed to have invented rugby by picking up a ball in a football match?

19 What year did the women's world cup start?

20 Who captained Ireland in both 2004 & 2006 to win the triple crown?

# Rugby Wordsearch



Hidden in this grid are 20 rugby words or names. Can you find all 20 in one sitting?

Try

Scrum

Tackle

Hooker

Winger

Prop

Backs

Forwards

Centre

England

Scotland

Wales

Ireland

New Zealand

Australia

Conversion

Leeds Rhinos

Leicester Tigers

Warrington

Gum Shield

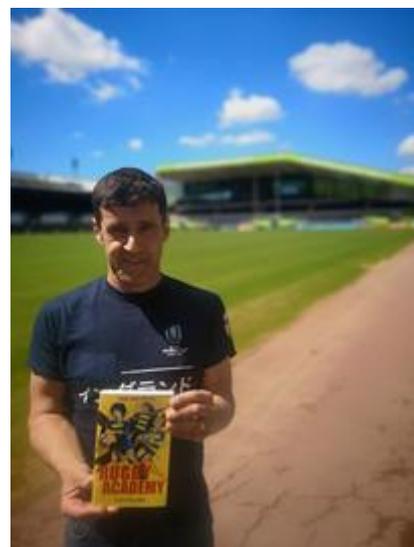
R	U	A	I	L	A	R	T	S	U	A	R	U	N	G	Y
L	H	I	P	R	E	T	S	E	H	C	N	A	O	O	O
E	S	O	R	I	T	J	S	P	U	R	S	K	I	A	O
I	U	O	O	S	C	O	T	L	A	N	D	M	S	E	P
C	N	A	P	K	N	U	Z	L	O	I	U	A	R	S	R
E	D	L	R	C	E	Z	A	T	E	R	T	N	E	C	E
S	E	R	S	A	R	R	X	C	V	E	Y	S	V	R	V
T	R	U	X	B	E	T	R	Y	E	L	T	O	N	U	D
E	L	B	Y	O	D	A	H	E	S	A	I	N	O	M	N
R	A	F	S	N	N	C	A	S	A	N	C	I	C	O	A
T	N	O	C	V	A	K	Z	L	Z	D	E	H	U	B	L
I	D	R	B	I	L	L	K	E	A	O	K	R	O	K	A
G	C	W	I	N	G	E	R	H	Y	N	O	S	M	P	E
E	S	A	R	L	N	N	P	C	F	U	T	D	O	L	Z
R	A	R	M	A	E	D	L	E	I	H	S	M	U	G	W
S	G	D	Y	E	M	N	U	P	N	H	S	E	J	P	E
S	S	S	E	L	A	W	A	R	R	I	N	G	T	O	N

## Dear Parent or Guardian

The 2019 men's Rugby Union World Cup is taking place – in Japan – this autumn.

If you are a sport-loving family, now is a good time to try to engage your children with reading for pleasure – through sport. Fiction. Non-fiction. Websites. Newspapers. Magazines. Whatever you choose, the Rugby World Cup can help.

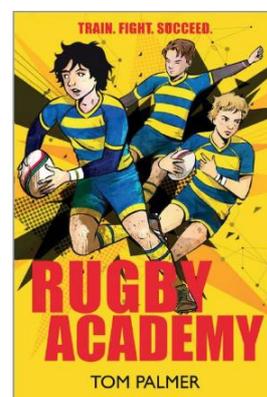
I am a children's author who came to love reading through sport. I now write sport fiction for a living. These are my **ten top tips** to encourage your sports mad children to read for pleasure.



- 1 **Set** the home page on your computer to a decent rugby website like [www.bbc.co.uk/sport/rugby-union](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/rugby-union) or [www.rugbyworldcup.com](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com)
- 2 **Get** your children on form for the year with one of the guides to playing the game. *Know the Game: Rugby Union* is a great book to start with. Ask if your local library stocks it.
- 3 **Deliver** a newspaper's rugby supplement to your child's room on Saturday or Sunday morning to get them used to reading previews, match reports and other articles.
- 4 **Buy** them a copy of one of the popular rugby magazines, *Rugby World* or *The Rugby Paper*.
- 5 **Read together** a child-friendly player-autobiography full of statistics, pictures and childhood stories. Check first that the content is appropriate for kids. A popular one is by Jonny Wilkinson.
- 6 **Play** one of the fantasy World Cup games running in newspapers, requiring a close eye on who is injured and who has been dropped from teams. Another reason to read the rugby pages.
- 7 **Discover** superb fiction in libraries and bookshops : *Rugby Zombie* by Dan Anthony, *Rugby Spirit* by Gerard Siggins *Pride & Penalties* by Chris Higgins and my *Rugby Academy* series.
- 8 **Leave** rugby newspaper articles and match reports in regular places like on the fridge door.
- 9 **Check out** the RFU's free literacy resources at [www.englandrugby.com](http://www.englandrugby.com). Check out the other home nations' websites too: [www.scottishrugby.org](http://www.scottishrugby.org), [www.wru.co.uk](http://www.wru.co.uk) and [www.irishrugby.ie](http://www.irishrugby.ie).
- 10 **Try** reading more yourself. You'll enjoy it and your children will want to join in too

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tom Palmer' with a stylized flourish underneath.



Tom Palmer, author of *Scrum!* and the *Rugby Academy* series published by Barrington Stoke  
"A dyslexia friendly ... lively rugby tale" *The Daily Telegraph*.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk)

# Answers

## Reading Quiz : Combat Zone

1. A deer
2. At night
3. A pilot
4. 14
5. Rugby
6. 6. He is thinking

## Reading Quiz : Surface to Air

1. At the back
2. He had forgotten they drove on the other side of the road and thought there was going to be an accident.
3. On a map
4. No, he had been expecting beaches and palm trees and instead it was a busy city with warehouses and dual carriageways
5. "Scanned" means searching or looking for.
6. Borderlands

## Reading Quiz : Deadlocked

1. Heathrow
2. The seatbelt signs to go off
3. He worries that he won't be able to finish a book.
4. Red
5. 4
6. Jesse

## Reading Quiz : Scrum!

1. Left
2. Winger
3. Between the posts
4. His dad
5. Super League
6. Happy

N.B. You may prefer your answers to be given more fully.

# Rugby Quiz answers

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1) Sin bin   | Wales, Italy, France   |
| 2) 15  | 11) New Zealand        |
| 3) Jonny Wilkinson   | 12) 1871               |
| 4) Heineken Cup  | 13) Grand Slam         |
| 5) France  | 14) England            |
| 6) New Zealand / South Africa /<br>Australia and Argentina | 15) A scrum            |
| 7) New Zealand   | 16) England & Scotland |
| 8) Line Out  | 17) Scott Quinnell     |
| 9) A knock on  | 18) William Webb Ellis |
| 10) England, Scotland, Ireland,                            | 19) 1991               |
|  | 20) Brian O'Driscoll   |

## Wordsearch answers

R	U	A	I	L	A	R	T	S	U	A	R	U	N	G	Y
L	H	I	P	R	E	T	S	E	H	C	N	A	O	O	O
E	S	O	R	I	T	J	S	P	U	R	S	K	I	A	O
I	U	O	O	S	C	O	T	L	A	N	D	M	S	E	P
C	N	A	P	K	N	U	Z	L	O	I	U	A	R	S	R
E	D	L	R	C	E	Z	A	T	E	R	T	N	E	C	E
S	E	R	S	A	R	R	X	C	V	E	Y	S	V	R	V
T	R	U	X	B	E	T	R	Y	E	L	T	O	N	U	D
E	L	B	Y	O	D	A	H	E	S	A	I	N	O	M	N
R	A	F	S	N	N	C	A	S	A	N	C	I	C	O	A
T	N	O	C	V	A	K	Z	L	Z	D	E	H	U	B	L
I	D	R	B	I	L	L	K	E	A	O	K	R	O	K	A
G	C	W	I	N	G	E	R	H	Y	N	O	S	M	P	E
E	S	A	R	L	N	N	P	C	F	U	T	D	O	L	Z
R	A	R	M	A	E	D	L	E	I	H	S	M	U	G	W
S	G	D	Y	E	M	N	U	P	N	H	S	E	J	P	E
S	S	S	E	L	A	W	A	R	R	I	N	G	T	O	N

# Further Reading

## Rugby Fiction for children

*Scrum!* by Tom Palmer (Barrington Stoke)

Rugby Academy:

1 Combat Zone by Tom Palmer, Barrington Stoke

2 Surface to Air by Tom Palmer, Barrington Stoke

3 Deadlocked by Tom Palmer, Barrington Stoke

Rugby Spirit by Gerard Siggins, The O'Brien Press

Rugby Warriors by Gerard Siggins, The O'Brien Press

Pride & Penalties by Chris Higgins, Hodder

Winger by Andrew Smith, Penguin

Diary of a Rugby Champ by Shamini Flint, Allen & Unwin

The Flea Thing by Brian Faulkner, Walker Books

The Rugby Zombies trilogy by Dan Anthony, Gomer Press

## Magazines

Rugby World magazine – the most widely available rugby union magazine

England Rugby Official Magazine

The Rugby Paper

## Websites

[www.rugbyworldcup.com](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/sport/o/rugby-union](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/o/rugby-union)

[www.rugbyworld.com](http://www.rugbyworld.com)

[www.planetrugby.com](http://www.planetrugby.com)

[www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk) Everything you need to know about its books and authors.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk) Tom Palmer's official website.

