

Book Title: *A Different Game*

Author: Sylvia Olsen

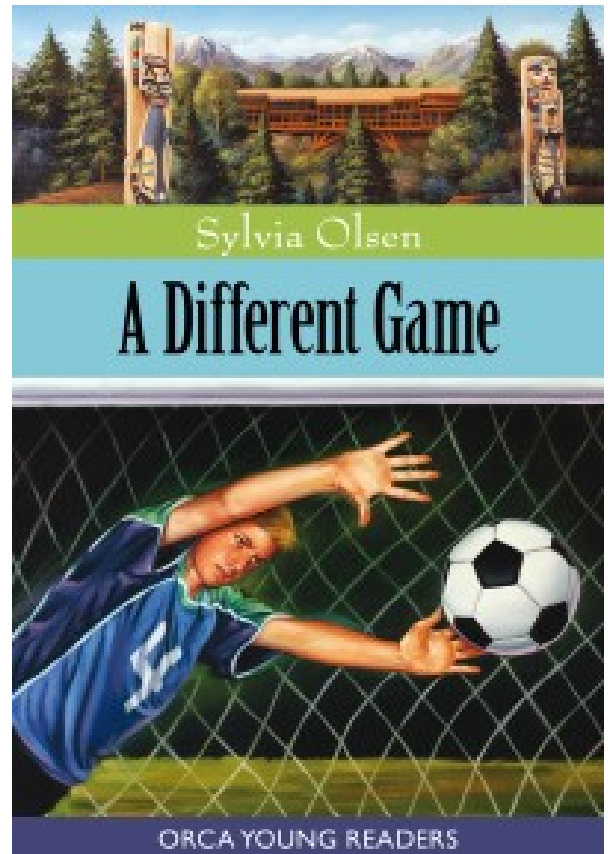
Annotation: *A Different Game* continues the story of Murphy who moved from his home in the city to a First Nation reserve. Now comfortable with his new life, Murphy and his soccer playing friends –The formidable Four–are facing tough tryouts. To everyone’s surprise, Albert, the superstar player begins acting like a jerk and then does not make the team. Once the truth about Albert is discovered, the community must pull together because he is playing “a different game”.

Concepts at a Glance:

- 🌈 Friendship, teams, sports, family, support

Projects, Ideas and Activities:

1. Use this book as a novel study. Journal entries related to friendship. Jeff tells Albert that friends are the best medicine there is. What does this mean?
2. Explore situations that students have to be supportive and good team members.
3. Use probabilities to describe the likelihood of Murphy making the team, of two of the Formidable Four making the team and so on!
4. At the end of the book the community raises \$2200 for Albert’s family to help with the cost of treatment. Have the students examine the expenses that would incur if one of the students from the school had to travel to the nearest cancer treatment centre. Display the data in different ways.
5. Murphy likes to look up words in the dictionary. Starting at the beginning of the book have students choose words that they are unfamiliar with and look up their definitions. Have them use them in a sentence either separately or together.
6. Have the students work in groups and develop a report surrounding one aspect of leukemia (causes, symptoms, different types, chemo.....)
7. Read other books by Sylvia Olsen. How does she know so much about living on a First Nations reserve? What do her characters have in common?



A Different Game-Curricular Links

Mathematical Strands

Number

- ✚ (5) Demonstrate an understanding of fractions by using concrete, pictorial and symbolic representations to create sets of equivalent fractions, compare fractions with like and unlike denominators.

Statistics and Probability

- ✚ (5) Collect, display and analyze data to solve problems.
- (5) Describe the likelihood of a single outcome occurring.
- (5) Compare the likelihood of two possible events occurring.

English Language Arts

2.1 Respond to texts

- ✚ (3) Tell or write about favourite parts of oral, print and other media texts.
- ✚ (4) Discuss a variety of oral, print or other media texts by the same author.
- ✚ (6) Make connections between own life and characters and ideas in oral, print and other media texts.

2.2 Use strategies and Clues

- ✚ (3) Use picture dictionaries, junior dictionaries and spell-check functions to confirm the spelling or locate the meanings of unfamiliar words in oral, print and other media texts.
- ✚ (5) Use references.