



Tangerine

by Edward Bloor

Teacher's Guide

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Synopsis

Preface

Paul Fisher and his mother finish preparation for the family move from Houston, Texas, to Tangerine, Florida; his father and brother Erik have preceded them. Paul has a hazy memory of a terrifying attack—being chased on his bike by hooded boys riding in a car and wielding a baseball bat. Paul had blamed Erik, but his parents discounted the idea. As they leave, his mother asks if he's remembering all the good times they've had in the house.

PART 1

Friday, August 18

As they enter Florida, Paul sees fields of tomatoes, onions, and watermelons; his mother explains they are too far north for citrus orchards. When they do see citrus trees, they've been plowed over and are burning, clearing the way for development of the area. They find Lake Windsor Downs, their housing development, locate their house, and arrive in time for the pizzas that had just been delivered. As Paul's father broaches the subject of the Erik Fisher Football Dream, Paul goes upstairs, makes up his bed, sets up his computer, and types in his journal entry. As he's falling asleep, he hears Erik leaving the house and driving off. Paul has a vague notion of zombie stalking him from Texas.

Saturday, August 19

Paul wakes in the middle of the night to a thunder and lightning storm. Later that morning, when he reawakens, he goes outside and smells smoke. He alerts his mother who thinks the house is on fire and makes a desperate call to the Fire Department. Wayne, the young, volunteer fireman who

responds, explains the smoke is from the muck fires, which are constantly refreshed by lightning strikes in the surrounding fields. Furious, Mrs. Fisher announces her plan to alert the Homeowner's Association.

Saturday, August 19, later

Paul rides his bike around a small pond which is presumably the "lake" that Lake Windsor Downs is named for. When he returns, he meets Mr. Costello of the Homeowner's Association who is speaking with Paul's mother and Mr. Costello's son, Mike. Mr. Costello asks Paul if he'd seen any koi in the pond. When Mr. Fisher and Erik returns, the conversation refocuses on the Erik Fisher Football Dream. Mike Costello is also on the football team, and will likely, be holding the ball for Erik's kicks. Paul knows Erik will use Mike to further his own career goals.

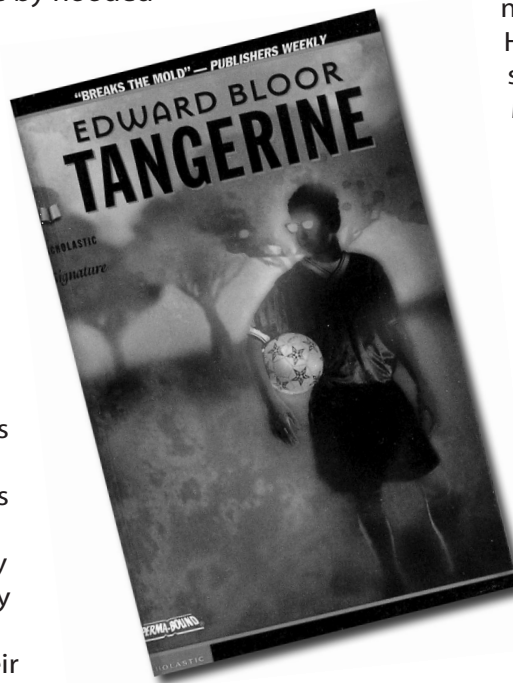
Monday, August 20

Paul knows the arrival of his family will have an effect on the community and wonders what his own role will be. Mrs. Fisher takes Paul to his new school where she tells the principal

that Paul is legally blind. Mrs. Gates, the principal, shows them the portable classrooms where his classes are located. Paul expresses his interest in playing on the soccer team; Mrs. Gates asks Mrs. Fisher to complete an Individualized Education Plan form for Paul, given his disability. Paul realizes his mother is not pleased with his new school.

Wednesday, August 23

The Fishers go to the football team tryouts; Erik does not have to compete for a place on the team. Paul sees an osprey flying overhead and wonders if someone who was really vision-impaired could recognize the high-flying bird. As a storm rolls in, Paul sees Mike Costello, Arthur Bauer (a new friend



of Erik's), and Antoine Thomas, the team's star quarterback. Mrs. Fisher voices her concerns about the safety of practicing during a storm. Paul and his mother wait out the storm in the car. Paul introduces himself to Joey Costello, Mike's younger brother, and some other kids who are practicing soccer. Paul rides home with his parents; Erik rides home with Arthur Bauer.

Monday, August 28

As Paul walks to catch the bus to school, a gray subdivision wall reminds him of waiting for the bus in kindergarten; Erik had told other students that Paul's vision had been damaged by staring at an eclipse, earning him the nickname Eclipse Boy. Paul has no memory of an eclipse, but he does know he's been eclipsed by Erik's notoriety. Paul meets Joey in the bus line. At school, Paul meets some of his teachers and is assigned a school volunteer to show him around; unappreciative of her help, he releases her from her responsibility. Paul tells her he doesn't remember how his eyes had been damaged.

Wednesday, August 30

While Paul works at his computer, Erik and Arthur practice kicking in the yard; Arthur's sister and another cheerleader do their homework at the picnic table. Paul predicts Arthur will end up driving Erik anywhere Erik wants to go and do anything else Erik asks, Arthur's sister will become Erik's girlfriend, and Arthur will ride the coattails of Erik's success, dealing Mike Costello out of the picture.

Thursday, August 31

Paul accompanies his mother to their storage bin. His mother, a stickler for rules, is asked to be on the Homeowner's Association Architectural Committee. That evening Paul and Joey run laps, and Joey points out Mr. Donnelly's house, which had been hit by lightning three times. Paul assures Joey the house will be hit again, as the lightning now knows where to strike; Joey declines from the next day's soccer tryouts.

Friday, September 1

At soccer tryouts, every student makes the team, but for away games, only fifteen players will be allowed to travel. Paul gains confidence and the respect of Gino, the star soccer player after deflecting Gino's goal shot.

Tuesday, September 5

As Paul and his mother return from shopping, Erik and Arthur arrive and inform them Mike Costello had been killed by lightning during practice. Erik tells them Joey kept getting in the way of the emergency responders and trying to take Mike's shoes off. While Mr. Fisher calls and provides the same story to Paul's mother, Paul overhears Erik and Arthur laughing about Mike's being 'Mohawked' by the lightning and making fun of Joey's response.

Wednesday, September 6

At football practice, Arthur Bauer takes Mike Costello's position holding the ball for Erik's kicks. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher argue about the wisdom of holding football practice during the daily storms. Paul's soccer practice is boring, and he tells himself he needs to remember Erik's role in his eye accident.

Thursday, September 7

At a meeting of concerned parents of football players, the coach, and the principal, Mrs. Fisher challenges the idea of afternoon football practice during storms; she provides details of several student deaths in the area over the last several years. The coach reluctantly agrees to survey the team and their parents about an alternative practice time.

Friday, September 8

Paul is crushed when Coach Walski cuts him from the soccer team because of his IEP and an issue with the insurance company. Paul and his mother argue about her filling out the form; she apologizes and promises to never discuss his 'handicap' again. Paul declines an opportunity to become team manager and sees an osprey flying, clutching what looks like a koi.

Friday, September 8, later

The Fisher family attends Mike Costello's visitation at the funeral home; it is Paul's first sight of a dead body. Paul agrees to go with Joey and some others to the carnival the next day.

Saturday, September 9

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher argue about the appropriateness of holding football practice on the day of the team captain's funeral. Mrs. Fisher drives Paul and Joey to meet their friends at the carnival in a rough part of town. Paul and Joey meet with other soccer

players and girls from Lake Windsor; they avoid some of the soccer players from Tangerine Middle School. Paul and his friends enter the Wonders of the World exhibit, but he loses them when they wander off while he considers the Boy Who Never Grew display. As Paul exits the exhibit, he sees the players from Tangerine waiting to enter.

Monday, September 11

Paul, Joey, and the other Lake Windsor students who attended the carnival are called into Mr. Murrow's office where they are asked what they know of vandalism to the Wonders of the World exhibit. Paul suggests that it may have been the students from Tangerine Middle School, and Joey confirms the players he saw were from the school team. Paul feels guilty about turning in other soccer players; Joey does not share his concern. Paul expresses an interest in Kerri Gardner to Joey. As they walk back to class a downpour causes teachers and students to start abandoning the portable classrooms. A huge sinkhole develops taking classrooms and boardwalks into its crater. Paul and Joey behave heroically helping fellow classmates escape the classrooms and likely disaster. Gino congratulates Paul on his rescue behavior and belittles his treatment by the coach and school.

Monday, September 11, later

Paul's grandparents call after seeing his school on the national news; Paul's father comes home irritated by the barrage of phone calls to his office concerning the school and the absence of his boss.

Tuesday, September 12

A meeting is called for parents of the Lake Windsor Middle School students. An engineering study condemns all the portable buildings, part of the soccer field, and half the bleachers of the adjacent high school's football field.

Thursday, September 14

When it emerges that the fiasco followed a failure in oversight by the Civil Engineering Department, Mr. Fisher's boss Charley Burns is fired and Mr. Fisher becomes the new Director.

Friday, September 15

On the way to the meeting with Middle School parents, Paul tells his mother he does not want to be sent to St. Anthony's, a private Catholic school. Mrs. Gates announces a split-shift for the Lake

Windsor Middle School students and that the principal of Tangerine Middle School has offered to assist by taking any students who wanted to attend. Paul demands the opportunity to attend Tangerine Middle School confronting his father about the lack of attention he pays to him and his soccer playing and confronting his mother over the IEP incident.

PART 2

Monday, September 18

Paul's mother drops him at Tangerine Middle School. He meets Dr. Johnson, the principal, and Theresa Cruz, his student escort for his first days. Paul has little success engaging Theresa in conversation until he asks about the soccer team; her twin brother, Tino, is on the team. When he asks about soccer practice, she tells him about some of the players, that the team is co-ed, and that some of the team, her brother included, would not be at practice that day as they had been suspended. Theresa introduces Paul to Coach Betty Bright who welcomes him to the team as a backup player for her starters; Paul accepts the terms. To his horror, he meets his mother as she leaves the principal's office. She had brought his transfer papers, but greatly relieves his anxiety by telling him his IEP had somehow disappeared from his file between Lake Windsor and Tangerine Middle School.

Tuesday, September 19

Paul meets the other members of the soccer team who challenge his presence at Tangerine Middle and question his ability to play soccer; he treats the matter as a joke. Victor Guzman explains that he and Theresa's brother, Tino, had been sent to vandalism jail after the carnival. Paul's relieved that they don't know he's the one who turned them in. In practice, Paul deflects Victor's kick at the goal gaining the respect of Tino. He summarizes the day's events for his mother on the way home; she thinks it's 'nice' that there are girls on his team.

Wednesday, September 20

On an especially bad muck fire day, Paul compares his used War Eagles uniform with Joey's new Seagulls uniform; in the distance, they hear Erik and Arthur 'mudding' in Arthur's truck. As Paul and Joey enter Paul's house, so do Erik and Arthur. Erik and Arthur belittle Joey's tragic loss, referring to his dead brother as Mohawk Man (because of the trauma to his head from the lightning), and laugh-

ing at Joey's attempt to take Mike's shoes. Paul comforts Joey who feels he should have defended himself. Paul reminds him that Erik and Arthur are the cowards and would never have had the nerve to say such things to his brother Mike. Joey confides that he hates Lake Windsor Middle School; Paul encourages him to switch to Tangerine.

Friday, September 22

The War Eagles play their first game against the Palmetto Whippoorwills; the opposing team is aggressive and cheats, the refereeing is bad, and the Palmetto fans are bad sports. Paul is sent in to play, and an opposing player smears mud in his eyes and glasses. When a fight ensues, Paul is pulled from play. A hard fought game yields a War Eagles victory; Paul receives assurance from Victor that he's part of the team, that the team is there for him, and that no one will mess with him.

Friday, September 22, later

Joey informs Paul that he will be attending Tangerine Middle School and asks about the soccer team; Paul tells him the team is totally focused on the game.

Saturday, September 23

During Lake Windsor High School's first football game, Erik makes the kickoff but is on the sidelines for the remainder of the first half; Antoine Thomas, the quarterback and team captain makes some great plays. As a storm moves in, Lake Windsor is behind; Antoine brings the score within one point. Erik is brought in to kick for the extra point, a shot he's never missed, and a tie score. Antoine is to hold the ball for Erik's kick, but as the ball is snapped to Antoine and Erik charges to make his kick, Antoine snatches the ball and runs for a conversion, leaving Erik flat on his back in the mud and Lake Windsor with its first victory. On the evening news, Erik's back flop is featured in a sports bloopers segment. Paul knows Erik will make someone pay for his humiliation.

Tuesday, September 26

At Paul's first home game, he sees many of his teammates beforehand talking with parents and siblings; he wonders briefly where his parents are. From the sidelines, Paul's impressed by his team's playing, especially by some of the female players. Victor reopens a wound to his forehead from the Palmetto game. Victor resists being sent to the Emergency Room but encourages his team before

he leaves; Paul is sent in to substitute for Victor. Paul scores one of the winning goals and Victor's approval.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, LATER

Paul answers a phone call from his Grandmom before taking a call from Cara Clifton, a former classmate at Lake Windsor Middle School. Cara quizzes him about an interest in her friend, Kerri Gardner. Joey later explains that Kerri was probably listening on an extension.

Wednesday, September 27

After soccer practice, Paul and Joey are taunted by Victor, Tino, and some other players; Paul takes the taunting in stride, but Joey is rattled by the exchange. On the ride home, Paul explains to his mother that some of the girls on his team are so good, they'll make the All-County Team. Mrs. Fisher thinks that fact should be brought to the attention of Mr. Donnelly of the Tangerine Times. Joey explains that some of the neighborhood houses, including his own, are being tented for fumigation; he declines her offer to stay with them. Paul knows it is partly due to the comments made earlier by Victor, but mostly because of the treatment Joey received earlier from Erik and Arthur.

Friday, September 29

A van from the Tangerine Times arrives at Paul's soccer practice; he knows his mother has played a role. Mr. Donnelly asks Coach Bright about Maya and Shandra; Shandra seems to panic and sprints away while Victor seems to run interference for her with Mr. Donnelly. Coach Bright tells Mr. Donnelly about the team but declines to provide any information about Shandra. The next day, the sports section features a mis-identified picture of one of the female players.

Monday, October 2

Paul volunteers himself and Joey to be part of a Science/Language Arts Cross-Curricular Project with Theresa, Tino, and Henry D.; Joey isn't pleased about working with Tino. Joey tells Paul he's quit the team, is no longer going to play soccer, and will play football instead when he enters high school; he also blames Paul for talking him into leaving Lake Windsor and enrolling in Tangerine Middle School before making a racist comment about the school.

Tuesday, October 3

Joey's comment of the previous day reminds Paul of an earlier exchange when Joey was surprised to learn that Paul thought Theresa was cute; he had suggested that Paul had been at the new school too long. The Science/Language Arts group meets for the first time and decides to report on Golden Dawn tangerines, a variety developed by Theresa and Tino's brother, Luis. Joey provokes a fight with Tino. Joey is pulled out of the classroom but not before he insults Paul and threatens Tino. Paul remains in the group, Tino is suspended for three days, and Joey later returns but to a different group.

Wednesday, October 4

Paul works at his father's computer as guests begin to arrive for a Homeowner's Association meeting. They discuss multiple lightning rods on Mr. Donnelly's house, the disappearing koi population, and the muck fire. Mr. Costello describes how their efforts to douse the fire led to the increased mosquito population and the need to spray the neighborhood. They also discuss how the tented houses have become the targets of thieves. Paul finds a file on Mr. Fisher's computer of Erik's scholarship offers; none of his father's top choices have responded.

Thursday, October 5

Joey isn't at school, and Paul suspects he's re-enrolling at Lake Windsor. He accepts an offer from Theresa to come to her house and meet Luis. Henry D. offers Paul a ride the Cruz nursery and then home with his brother. Luis shows Paul and Henry D. around the nursery, explaining grafting and rootstock and answering their questions. When Paul thanks Luis for his help, Luis invites him back. Henry D.'s brother Wayne, the volunteer fireman who had earlier responded to Mrs. Fisher's desperate call, drives Paul home while towing the sprayer he'll be using to rid Paul's neighborhood of the mosquitoes. Wayne explains to Paul that the tented houses sit atop bulldozed and buried citrus trees which are likely the source of the houses' termite infestation. When Paul gets home, he hears his brother and Arthur practicing in the backyard; he remembers a time in Houston with Erik scaring him while his folks tested the extent of his eye damage and neglects to warn Erik about the coming mosquito spray.

Thursday, November 2

As with the rest of his family, time flies by for Paul. His father is firmly in control as Director of Civil Engineering. His mother is on the Architectural Committee and the Neighborhood Watch. Erik has had numerous opportunities to shine in his footballs games and has. Paul has had his own opportunities to shine in Tangerine Middle's soccer triumphs and feels being part of that team, even as a substitute, is the greatest thing to happen to him.

Saturday, November 4

Paul makes an unannounced visit to the nursery where Tino does not seem pleased to see him; Luis assures Tino that he'd invited Paul back and that Paul was welcome. Paul helps Tino and Luis layout watering hose for the new trees. Luis asks Paul what he likes about the nursery and Paul answers, "the smell." Luis, very familiar with the sensation, explains that the scent is what led to the name of his variety of tangerines: the scent of a golden dawn. Tino assists Paul with the application of first-aid spray for his sunburn; he tells Paul how Luis acquired his limp and that Luis had played goalie for Tangerine Middle and High Schools. Paul admits to Tino that he'd been the one who turned in the Tangerine players for the incident at the carnival; Tino makes a joke of it.

Sunday, November 5

Mr. Donnelly invites the Fishers to his home to meet some of his university football-connected friends. Erik is already there when they arrive; he's left Arthur outside waiting in his truck. Erik smells of bug spray which he explains away claiming Arthur always keeps the spray in his truck for when they go 'mudding.' Mr. Donnelly is surprised to learn about Paul playing soccer for Tangerine Middle School and relates the story of Coach Bright's own Olympic experience. The Fishers are each surprised when Mr. Donnelly expresses his pleasure in meeting both Erik and Paul. As they leave, Arthur hides something that had been on his dashboard. When they return home, there's a message on their answering machine saying that Grandmom and Grandpop are planning a trip to Florida. Paul has a vague memory of his grandparents' reaction to seeing him the first time after his eye damage.

Tuesday, November 7

Paul's soccer game is called off because of a thunder and lightning storm; his team is the only undefeated and un-tied team in the league, which leaves them ahead of Lake Windsor which is undefeated but with one tie game.

Wednesday, November 8

The Tangerine Times features Tangerine Middle School's undefeated season and includes an additional feature on Coach Bright and her experience during the Olympics.

Friday, November 10

As Paul's team bus passes through his neighborhood on the way to the Lake Windsor Middle School, his teammates comment on all the grand houses. As the game begins, a Lake Windsor player fouls Victor and is ejected; Victor is hurt and Paul is sent in to substitute for him. Shandra Thomas seems to get hurt, and Paul now substitutes for her in the goalie position; quickly, a ball gets past Paul and Lake Windsor leads 2-1. At half-time, Coach Walski challenges Paul's eligibility to play on the basis of his address. Coach Bright reminds Coach Walski that her goalie had been Shandra Thomas, sister of Antoine Thomas, and that he lives with her and her mother. Coach Walski drops his challenge to Paul's playing. The game ends in a tie, but leaves Tangerine Middle with a better season record and the championship.

PART 3

Monday, November 20

Paul's friends come to his house to work on the science project, and Erik and Arthur taunt them. Tino challenges Erik reminding him of the flying leap on his back in his first game. Erik slams Tino cutting his face; Mr. Fisher is in the kitchen but seems to have not seen anything. Paul's left staring at the gray wall by his house with vague memories of another wall, in another place.

Tuesday, November 21

Paul questions himself about telling on Erik; he suspects it wouldn't make any difference. Paul accompanies his mother to the storage bin where she smells insecticide and then to the High School where she has an academic conference with Erik's guidance counselor. While she's in the meeting, Paul waits under the bleachers hoping to avoid his brother who's at football practice. While he watch-

es, Luis Cruz arrives at practice looking for Erik. He confronts him for hitting his brother as Arthur starts to circle behind Luis and then hits him in the head with a blackjack; everyone laughs except Antoine Thomas and a friend who go to Luis' aid.

Thursday, November 23, Thanksgiving

On Thanksgiving morning, Paul recounts the activities of the day and night before. The weather had turned unseasonably cold. Paul's grandparents called and enquired about his school and friends; he realized they never ask about Erik's football playing and, usually, change the subject if it comes up. They announced their plans to drive to Orlando and visit while they're there. Mr. Fisher was irritated that they would drive to Florida to see Epcot but not to see Erik play football. Mrs. Fisher planned on going to the storage been to retrieve warmer clothing for the family. At school, Henry D. explained the absence of so many students to Paul, telling him most are probably trying to save their citrus crops during the freeze. Paul and Henry D. decide they should help the Cruz family with the work; Paul left a message for his folks saying he and Henry would be going to the Cruz nursery to work on their project and to not expect him home. Paul, Henry, Victor, Tino, and other War Eagles began a laborious, long, cold night working to save the trees as the temperatures continued to drop. Paul admitted to Luis that he'd seen the assault at the High School; Luis told Paul that something would happen Monday when the team turns in their football uniforms, and that Antoine Thomas, his friend, and Luis are each part of the plan. Paul returns home exhausted and suggesting he may be coming down with a cold.

Friday, November 24

Paul sleeps for eighteen hours missing Thanksgiving dinner and Erik's last game. Lake Windsor had defeated Tangerine High School for the football championship, but Erik didn't get to make a single point. Mr. Fisher is fuming about the bad snaps to Erik. In the sports section of the *Tangerine Times*, Antoine Thomas was the big story, and the All-County Middle School team was featured, lacking only a picture of Shandra Thomas. Paul challenges his father about what he knows of Erik's season versus what his father knows of his soccer season; Mr. Fisher gets the point. The newspaper also announces the High School Award Ceremony for the following Friday night and its

dedication to the memory of Mike Costello. When they look outside, they see someone had busted up all the mailboxes and spray painted the subdivision wall with derogatory remarks about the Lake Windsor Seagulls; Paul faints. Both his parents are attentive throughout the day, but Paul is having vague memories again.

Monday, November 27

Paul stays home from school again, and when Erik and Arthur return that afternoon, he realizes something had gone wrong with Luis' plan. Kerri Gardner calls and invites Paul to a party at Joey's after the ceremony Friday night; he accepts. At a Homeowner's Association meeting, Paul overhears Mr. Costello and his mother making a list of items that had been stolen from the tented houses while they were being fumigated. When the other members arrive, Mr. Costello tells the group that the freeze killed off the mosquitoes and ended the thunderstorm season. When the discussion turns to the disappearing koi, Mr. Costello suggests someone is stealing them; Paul interrupts to explain they are disappearing because of the ospreys.

Tuesday, November 28

Paul learns that Luis Cruz has died as a result of a blow to his head; some suspect he'd been hit in the head by a branch during the freeze. Paul agonizes over what he knows.

Wednesday, November 29

Theresa Cruz calls and warns Paul not to attend Luis' funeral, and that she doesn't want anything else bad to happen. Paul wonders if other Tangerine students think he's as guilty as Erik and Arthur. On a walk to the pond, Paul frightens a child telling him that the cautionary tales he'd been told by his parents were all untrue.

Thursday, November 30

The day of Luis' funeral, Paul dresses in his suit, goes outside, pulls back sod and sand reaching the earth below, and weeps for Luis.

Friday, December 1

Joey Costello calls Paul to see if he's alright after the events of the day. Joey recounts those events. Paul had skipped school again and overheard his mother talking with someone from the Sheriff's Department. Paul accompanied his parents to the

Awards Ceremony; Erik rode with Arthur Bauer. Paul and Joey resolved their earlier differences. As the ceremony began, Paul spotted Victor and Tino focused on the Lake Windsor team. Tino violently attacked Erik, while Victor did the same to Arthur; both Tino and Victor try to escape the fury of the crowd. Victor escaped, but Coach Warner held Tino. Paul leaped from the bleachers on to Coach Warner's back enabling Tino to escape and horrifying everyone else. Paul broke away from his father and the coach and ran all the way home. Exhausted and panting, Paul stood near the subdivision wall while Erik and Arthur pulled up in Arthur's truck. They approached Paul threateningly, but Paul stood his ground defiantly. Even with Erik holding a bat menacingly, Paul continued to stand up to their threats, told them he'd seen them hit Luis, that they were responsible for his death, and that they were cowards. Arthur then tried to get Erik to leave, but Erik shouted, "Shut up, Castor." They jumped in Arthur's truck and drove off as a wave of memories flooded Paul.

When he was younger, Paul had seen spray painting on another subdivision wall and was certain that Erik and his then goon, Vincent Castor, had been responsible for it. Erik blamed Paul for telling on Vincent and had held Paul's eyelids wide open while Vincent sprayed them with paint before leaving him alone writhing in pain.

After Erik and Arthur took off, Paul entered the house where his parents waited. Paul took the initiative asking if they remembered Vincent Castor, and they immediately knew he remembered. He challenged them as his mother paled and his father broke down in tears, still making excuses for Erik. His questions force their admittance of knowing what had happened all along. Joey's call enabled Paul to tell someone that he was finally alright.

Saturday, December 2

Joey calls Paul early and mentions that Coach Bright is at Mr. Donnelly's. Paul rides his bike to the Donnelly house where he's surprised to find Shandra Thomas sitting in Coach Bright's car; she tells him the Coach and her brother Antoine are inside with the reporter. She explains that because Antoine played for Lake Windsor but lived in Tangerine district, he'd had to keep his home a secret, as did she, accounting for why she had

evaded the reporter earlier. She tells him there is more to Antoine's story but that she didn't know what it was. As the Coach and Antoine leave, Antoine tells Paul it's time to start telling the truth and to stop hiding under the bleachers; Paul knows that Antoine knows he'd witnessed what happened to Luis and that Antoine was headed to speak with the Sheriff. When Paul returns home, his parents ask him to be part of a meeting the next evening.

Sunday, December 3

Paul gets up early to retrieve the newspaper. The headline story reveals a scandal in the Lake Windsor football department: that Antoine Thomas had admitted not residing in the district, the coach and Mr. Bridges had expressed their surprise, and that the Tangerine Country School Sports Commission had nullified any of the team's victories and any of the records that they may have set.

In an aside article, Mr. Donnelly writes about his own record set for passing while a player at Tangerine High and his elation and pride. He goes on to say the record held for years until Antoine Thomas beat his record, and the Commission's decision enabled him to retain his place in the record book. He says Antoine holds the record, Antoine was the greatest quarterback in the history of the county, and that everyone knew it. Paul challenges his father about his foreknowledge of Antoine's residence.

Sunday, December 3, later

As people start arriving at the Fisher house, they are handed a list of items stolen from the tented houses, each item's value, and if it had been recovered; the homeowners, the Bauers, and the Fishers are all in attendance. Mrs. Fisher speaks for her family and the Bauers; she tells group she'd found the items in the family's storage bin, that Erik and Arthur were responsible, and that the families would like to make restitution if charges aren't pursued. The families reluctantly agree to the terms. As everyone leaves, Sheriff's Deputies await and arrest Arthur for the murder of Luis Cruz. His father's claim of self-defense is quickly challenged by Paul who tells the crowd that Arthur struck Luis and that Erik had told him to do it. Paul agrees to give a statement, the crowd disperses, and Mrs. Fisher's parents arrive. Mrs. Fisher tells her parents the whole story, and her father tells her she's paying

for what she hadn't done when Erik had hurt Paul. Her parents tour the house then leave as Mrs. Fisher takes a call and agrees to meet Paul's principal the next morning.

Monday, December 4

When Paul and his mother arrive at the school, they meet with the principal, Tomas Cruz, and Victor's mother. Paul waits with Theresa Cruz and gives her the finished report on the Golden Dawn tangerines. While the principal speaks with Victor, Paul and Tino are left alone. Tino cautions Paul about how to speak to the principal and asks him to make sure Joey understands they meant no disrespect toward his brother Mike. Paul is expelled from all public schools in Tangerine County for the balance of the school year. As Paul and his mother leave the school, Paul is cheered by the other assembling students.

Paul's mother voices her relief that he's out of that school, but Paul assures her he will return the following year. She takes him on a shopping spree for new clothes and uniforms to attend St. Anthony's school. Paul looks forward to being the new 'bad dude' on campus.

Tuesday, December 5

Paul's father claims to be finished with protecting Erik. Paul realizes his father has abandoned his brother just as his other new 'friends.' Tino calls to wish Paul well and calls Paul 'brother.'

Tuesday, December 5, later

Paul writes a long, complete statement for the Sheriff, gives his parents the disk, and sees them sitting down to read it as he heads up to his room.

Wednesday, December 6

Mr. Fisher drives Paul to his new school and points out the tree that memorialized Mike Costello. Paul rolls down his window and fills the car with the scent of a golden dawn.

Background Information on Lightning

Lightning comes from thunderclouds, created when hot moist air rises into the atmosphere and condenses. Thunderclouds are large, anvil-shaped masses that can stretch miles across at the base, and reach 40,000 feet or more into the atmosphere.

No one is precisely sure how lightning is formed. According to one theory, small cloud particles become positively charged, while other larger particles become negatively charged. Racing toward each other, the charges connect, completing an electrical circuit and discharging the accumulated electricity as lightning.

When the current is discharged, it is accompanied by a flash containing millions of volts of electricity. The surrounding air is heated up to 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit, five times hotter than the surface temperature of the sun. The rapidly expanding heated air also produces tremendous shock waves, which become audible as the sound of thunder.

Cloud-to-cloud lightning is the most common form of electrical discharge. Only about one-third of all discharges are cloud-to-ground. Bolts that shoot from cloud-to-air are even less common, but can strike up to 10 miles away.

Author Sketch

Edward Bloor was born October 12, 1950, in Trenton, NJ. In 1973, Bloor earned his BA from Fordham University. For three years, 1983-86, Bloor taught in the Florida public schools; since 1986, he has been an editor at Harcourt Brace School Publishers in Florida. In 1984, Bloor married Pamela Dixon; they have two children.



Speaking about his award-winning first novel, Edward Bloor said: "I wrote most of *Tangerine* on my ride to work down the back roads of Florida, west of Orlando. To my dismay, I watched the daily destruction of the citrus groves along this route. This is how it happens: The citrus trees are uprooted and bulldozed into piles; the piles are set on fire; the charred remains of the trees are buried, and tons of white sand are dumped over their

graves. After that, a completely different place is created, a place as fictional as any novel. A developer erects a wall, thinks of a theme, and gives the place a name. Then the place fills up with large houses and with people whose only common bond is that they qualified for the same amount of mortgage money."

"These daily sights, relentless and repulsive, made me think about this: Who are the people who used to make a go of it here? Who are the people now making their exit while we're making our entrance? And how do they feel about all this?"

"These questions are part of what drives Paul Fisher, the story's protagonist, although the reader soon comes to realize that the demise of the citrus industry may be the least of Paul's worries. Paul lives in constant fear of his evil older brother, Erik. Paul also struggles mightily to lead a normal life and to see things as they really are despite the thick-framed glasses that cover his injured eyes. Playing goalie in soccer is at the core of Paul's life, and he gets to do it on two teams, one of which is a mixture of boys and girls. It is the clash of these two teams, these two schools, and these two worlds that brings about the climactic scenes of the novel."

Critic's Corner

Set in the tangerine-growing region of Florida, Bloor's first novel touches on environmental and social issues while exploring the trials of the seeing-impaired, soccer-playing protagonist, Paul Fisher. *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* reviewer Deborah Stevenson stated that *Tangerine* "is a richly imagined read about an underdog coming into his own." Bloor deftly blends several plotlines into "a series of gripping climaxes and revelations," according to a *Kirkus Reviews* contributor. "Well-rounded characterization and a humorous edge add to the appeal of the book. Paul makes a memorable protagonist in a cast of vividly drawn characters; multiple yet taut plotlines."

The *Horn Book* reviewer said: "Legally blind, Paul Fisher has lived most of his life in the shadow of his football star brother. But things change when they move to Tangerine County, where bizarre natural disasters are everyday occurrences, and Paul wins

an unlikely new crew of friends on the soccer field. In a climactic ending, Paul finally confronts his parents with the truth about the brother he fears, and readers will cheer for this bright, funny, decent kid.”

Writing in *Booklist*, Kathleen Squires gave this assessment: “There’s a lot going on in the story—perhaps too much—and with the exception of Paul, the characters are little more than intriguing, shadowy shapes. Paul’s musings occasionally seem too old for his years, as well. Still, the book has a lot going for it, especially the atmospheric portrait of the eerie community, where lightning strikes more often than it does anywhere else and a school is swallowed by a sinkhole. One thing is for sure: this dark debut novel proves that Bloor is a writer to watch.”

Tangerine received many awards. These include Books in the Middle, Outstanding Titles of 1997; *Horn Book* honor list, 1997; Pick of the List, American Booksellers Association, 1997; 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing, New York Public Library, 1997; Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults and Best Books for Young Adults citations, American Library Association, both 1998; and Edgar Allen Poe Award nominee for Best Young Adult Novel, 1998.



Other Books by Edward Bloor

- Crusader* (1999)
- Story Time* (2004)
- London Calling* (2006)

Bibliography

- Booklist*, May 15, 1997, p. 1573.
- Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, March 1997, p. 241.
- Horn Book*, July-August 1997, p. 449.
- Kirkus Reviews*, Feb. 1, 1997, p. 219.
- Publishers Weekly*, March 24, 1997, p. 84; June 30, 1997, p. 27.
- School Library Journal*, April 1997, p. 1334.

General Objectives

1. To analyze obsession with athletic competition, especially football
2. To assess the effects of ignoring cruelty

3. To recognize the importance of honesty and openness within families
4. To appreciate the power of friendship
5. To understand the novel’s title
6. To contrast families and cultures
7. To find examples of social climbing
8. To understand how teenagers fit into new situations
9. To describe the novel’s mood or atmosphere
10. To predict what the future holds for Paul and his family

Specific Objectives

1. To assess the damage caused by denying Erik’s sociopathic nature
2. To probe the relationship between Paul and his parents
3. To understand how much soccer means to Paul
4. To see how Mr. Fisher has built his life around Erik’s football ability

5. To explore why the Fisher family has moved to Tangerine
6. To look into the relationship between Arthur and Erik
7. To understand the novel's symbols, especially the tangerines, lightning, and fires
8. To compare and contrast the pairs of brothers: Paul and Erik, Mike and Joey, and Luis and Tino
9. To grasp the significance of Paul's vision impairment
10. To explore why Paul fears Erik

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Edward Bloor's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

Symbols: a person, place, or object that represents an abstract idea. For example, a dove may symbolize peace or a rose may symbolize love. In *Tangerine*, the fires, lightning, and sinkhole all combine to symbolize a hellish reality: a world devoid of love or honesty baked in the relentless heat.

Dialect: the way people speak in a certain region or area. In a dialect, certain words are spelled and pronounced differently. Writers use dialects to describe their characters and setting more fully. Bloor sprinkles his text with Florida dialect to help readers become part of the action and setting. For example, the local fire fighter Wayne refers to the omnipresent mosquitoes as "skeeters." Talking about the problem of eradicating the muck fire, he says: "They ain't figured out how to do that yet."

Point of View: the position from which a story is told. In the first-person point of view, the narrator is one of the characters in the story. The narrator explains the events through his or her own eyes, using the pronouns I and me. Bloor uses this point of view to give his novel immediacy. We see all actions through Paul's eyes, experiencing events as he does.

Cross-Curricular Sources

Books

Joan Bauer, *Rules of the Road*
 Stephen Chbosky, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Frances O'Roark Dowell, *Dovey Coe*
 Susan Fletcher, *Flight of the Dragon Kyn*
 Susan Fletcher, *Shadow Spinner*
 Alex Garland, *The Beach*
 Kate Gilmore, *The Exchange Student*
 Carol Gorman, *Dork in Disguise*
 Will Hobbs, *The Maze*
 Jeanette Ingold, *Pictures*
 Scott Johnson, *Safe at Second*
 Joyce McDonald, *Swallowing Stones*
 Laura McNeal, Tom McNeal, *Crooked*
 Ben Mikaelson, *Petey*
 Wendy Orr, *Peeling the Onion*
 Ruth Pennebaker, *Both Sides Now*
 Susan Price, *The Sterkarm Handshake*
 S.L. Rottman, *Rough Waters*
 Louis Sachar, *Holes*
 Neal Shusterman, *The Dark Side of Nowhere*
 Rob Thomas, *Rats Saw God*
 Rob Thomas, *Satellite Down*
 Gloria Skurzynski, *Virtual War*
 Shelley Sykes, *For Mike*
 Frances Wilbur, *The Dog with Golden Eyes*
 Carol Lynch Williams, *My Angelica*

Nonfiction

H. G. Bissinger, *Friday Night Lights*
 Elizabeth Connelly, *Sibling Rivalry: Relational Disorders Between Brothers and Sisters*
 Karen Judson, *Sports and Money: It's a Sellout!*

Internet

Lightning
www.qnet.com/~craftyb/lightning.htm
 Photographs of lightning
www.student.wau.nl/~florisb/onweer.html
 "Scientific American: Ball Lightning,"
www.sciam.com/askexpert/physics/physics30.html

Videos/DVD

AAA Travel Video Series - Florida
 The Best of Florida in 60 Minutes
 Creature Comforts
 Cruising Florida's Waterways
 Ever After: A Cinderella Story
 Florida: Palm Beach to the Keys
 Florida's Sun Coast
 The Goonies
 To Kill a Mockingbird
 Over Florida
 Rudy
 Wild Florida for Children

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Edward Bloor's *Tangerine* should include these aspects:

Themes

- athletic competition
- betrayal
- bravery
- death
- discrimination
- fear and terror
- friendship
- rootlessness
- survival
- truth and lies

Motifs

- athletic competition as a substitute for realistic goals
- the importance of honesty
- discrimination against the handicapped
- social pretensions
- the results of favoring one sibling over another
- the American obsession with football
- family strife
- the effects of being cut-off from family, religion, and friends
- cultural conflicts
- coming of age amid great hardships

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. I stammered out, "Erik. He tried to kill me." (p. 3)
(In this scene, Paul recalls a black car coming after him. There's a man hanging out of the passenger window brandishing a metal baseball bat like a murder weapon. The man's face is covered with a ski mask. The man brings the bat down in a mighty swing, right at Paul's face. Although he can't see his assailant, Paul is sure that it is his older brother Erik. Paul's parents dismiss his shady memory. However, Paul's visions continue throughout the book, as well as his conviction that his brother means to harm him, perhaps even fatally.)

2. "Did you see his hair? Did you see the side of his head? He got Mohawked, man!" (Part 1, p. 51)
(Here, Erik and his sidekick Arthur are making fun of the way Mike Costello looked as he was electrocuted by lightning on the football field. The two boys are celebrating Mike's death because they are cruel and vicious. Paul's mother, however, ignores the way Erik is acting, showing that she favors Erik over Paul and is willing to overlook his serious character flaws for the sake of the Erik Fisher Football Dream and family harmony.)
3. "Mike always felt better when he got his shoes off." (Part 2, p. 112)
(As Mike lay dead on the football field, his younger brother Joey tried in vain to remove his sneakers. As he explains in this scene, Joey wanted Mike to be comfortable. Although Joey realized that he could not have made Mike comfortable, his action shows that he loved his brother very much. The close, loving relationship of Joey and Mike thus stands in sharp contrast to the distant, fearful relationship between Paul and Erik. At this point, it is plain that there is no love between the boys; later, we learn that Erik has indeed been trying to kill Paul.)
4. "You got brothers to back you up. Nobody's gonna mess with you, not any place, not any-time. Do you know what I'm sayin'?" (Part 2, p. 121)
(Victor welcomes Paul into the soccer team, the War Eagles, and explains that his teammates are like brothers. Paul is overcome by this friendship, especially since his own brother hates him and treats him with great cruelty.)
5. His foot started toward the ball in a powerful arc, and then —the most incredible thing happened. Antoine whipped the ball away at the last second, like Lucy does with Charlie Brown. (Part 2, pp. 126-127)
(Resenting Erik's arrogant grandstanding, the other football players have conspired to humiliate him by snatching the ball away at his moment of glory. This scene provides outward confirmation that Erik is an egotistical bully, liked only by sycophants and other followers.)
6. Suddenly I felt the hot breath of a predator on my neck. I screamed in terror. Erik laughed and ran over to Mom and Dad. (Part 2, p. 163)
(Paul has another flashback in which he remembers being intimidated by Erik. The boys' father snaps at Erik but does not punish him in any way for terrifying his brother. This scene foreshadows Paul's discovery that Erik had indeed attacked him—and their parents took no action to deal with Erik's severe mental disturbance.)

7. "You're saying that I know everything about Erik's season and nothing about yours. You're right, and I'm sorry." (Part 3, p. 226)
(Paul shows his father a picture of the All-County Middle School Soccer Team. His father doesn't even know if his son made the team, much less how many games he played in or what positions he played. However, Mr. Fisher does know exactly how many field goals Erik made, because he has not missed a single one of Erik's games or his practice sessions. Although he admits that he has not paid any attention to Paul, Mr. Fisher has no remorse. Rather, he defends his actions by saying that this was a critical year for Erik's career in football. It is plain that Mr. Fisher has built his life around the Erik Fisher Football Dream, and Paul is simply an afterthought.)
8. And I remembered Erik's fingers prying my eyelids open while Vincent Castor sprayed white paint into them. They left me screaming and rolling around on the floor of the garage. (Part 3, p. 255)
(At the novel's climax, Paul recovers his repressed memory and remembers that his brother Erik and Erik's sidekick Vincent Castor did indeed try to blind him, permanently damaging his vision. Mrs. Fisher rescued Paul, so she knew exactly how he came to be legally blind. Erik is indeed the monster that Paul had long suspected and Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have indeed put Erik's football career ahead of everything else—even the health and safety of their younger son.)
9. The headline said, "Lake Windsor Athlete Confesses in Football Scandal." (Part 3, p. 263)
(Antoine Thomas admits that he and his coach faked his address to enable him to play football at Lake Windsor. With Antoine's confession, Erik's football career crumbles, as all his achievements are declared null.)
10. Mom closed the notebook and made eye contact with the guests. "It didn't take a genius to figure out the rest. These items were stolen by Erik Fisher and Arthur Bauer." (Part 3, p. 271)
(In addition to being a psychotic bully, Erik is a thief. He and Arthur have robbed all the houses in the neighborhood that were being fumigated. Even though the boys are guilty, the Fishers continue to protect them and shield them from full responsibility for their actions. They repeat the mistake they made with Erik's assault on Paul.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

- Why did Erik's family move to Florida?
(Erik's father got a new job as the assistant to Charley Burns, the Director of Civil Engineering. When Charley is fired in the sink-hole scandal, Mr. Fisher gets his job.)
- What is the Erik Fisher Football Dream?
(Led by Mr. Fisher, the family plans to help Erik become a famous professional football player. As a first step, Erik will excel at high school football, which he does. Then Mr. Fisher plans to help Erik procure a football scholarship to a prestigious college, and from there, a spot on a professional team. The entire family revolves around this plan.)
- How did Mike Costello die?
(Mike was electrocuted while playing football in an open field during a thunderstorm. His tragic death highlights the American obsession with organized sports, especially football. It shows that many coaches and parents will stop at nothing to make sure their children excel at sports.)
- Why did Erik's football records get wiped out of the record books?
(When Antoine Thomas admitted that he did not live in the district, any games in which he played were expunged. Since Erik had played in these games, his accomplishments were null and void as well.)
- How did Paul lose his sight? How did the Fishers deal with the situation?
(Erik and his then-flunky Arthur Castor held Paul down and sprayed paint into his eyes. Mrs. Fisher took Paul to the hospital, but they did not confront Erik with his horrible deed. Instead, they swept the entire matter under the rug, leaving Paul baffled as to the reason for his impaired vision.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

- Why do Paul's parents ignore Erik's cruelty?
(Mr. Fisher has placed the Erik Fisher Football Dream above all else; Mrs. Fisher goes along with the plan for the sake of family harmony. Mr. Fisher is obsessed with dreams of football glory while Mrs. Fisher is too weak to assert herself and get Erik the psychological help he needs.)

7. Why is Paul transfixed by the Boy Who Never Grew in the carnival freak show?
(Paul peers into the eyes of the photo for a long, long time. He realizes that he could become a freak, a Boy Who Never Grew, if he cannot find the truth about his injury. He is stuck in limbo, with horrifying suspicions about his brother. Only when he finds out if his suspicions are right about Erik's cruelty can he move on with his life.)
8. What commentary is the author making about sports in American life?
(The author suggests that sports have become far too important in American life. People are killed over sports, shown by Mike Costello's death. Practice can't be canceled for a funeral, much less a lightning storm.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What does the lightning and muck fire symbolize in the novel?
(The daily streaks of lightning and the ever-burning muck fire symbolize hell. The former tangerine groves have been disrupted, the natural world thrown off its axis, by the newcomers who insist on destroying the ecosystem to build massive houses. They have created a hell from a heavenly, sweet-smelling place, as Luis explains. Luis tries to rebuild the tangerine groves (heaven), but he is killed by the people who have supplanted him.)
10. How would you describe the Fishers? What do they symbolize?
(The Fishers are lost and rootless. They are cut off from their family, their religion, and any sense of place. Most tragically, they are cut off from each other. The family ignores Paul to focus on Erik. When Paul oversleeps on Thanksgiving, they do not even wake him up to eat with the family. The Fishers symbolize the tragic modern family that has used possessions (here, a large house) and meaningless rituals (here, sports) as a replacement for true meaning in their lives.)

Questions 11-13 (Creative Level)

11. Working with a small group of classmates, discuss some ways that you might have coped with Paul's situation had you been in his place.
12. Explain what motivated Erik's great cruelty toward his brother. How do you think the Fishers should have dealt with Erik?

Across the Curriculum

Art and Music

1. Create a tourist brochure for Tangerine, Florida.

2. Draw a floor plan for the Fishers' new house in Tangerine.
3. Make a newspaper advertisement for the Fishers' housing development, the Manors of Coventry.
4. Design the logo for Paul's soccer team, the War Eagles.

Geography and History

1. Create a map tracing the family's journey from Houston, Texas, to Tangerine, Florida.
2. Write a report on the history of Texas or Florida. Include information on at least five famous people from the state you select.
3. Each of the house styles in the Fishers' development is named after British royal families: Lancaster, York, Stuart, and Tudor. Select one of these families and report on their history and famous members.

Math

1. Working with the map you created tracing the family's trip their new house, calculate how long the trip would take them. Assume they travel within the speed limit for 6, 7, or 8 hours a day.

Language Arts

1. Edward Bloor said: "I grew up in a city, Trenton, New Jersey, where children's soccer was taken very seriously. Different ethnic communities—Poles, Italians, Germans, Ukrainians—all had their kids' soccer clubs. Parents of the children on these teams raged and howled at the games as if their national pride was at stake. I was one of those little kids trying desperately to kick a soccer ball amidst the multilingual howling. I continued my soccer playing through high school, on a really good team, and into college, on a really bad team." Write a newspaper editorial in which you argue that sports are healthy for children.
2. *Tangerine* has been criticized for including too many needless subplots. Select any three subplots and argue for or against their inclusion. Possibilities include the subplot concerning Kerri Gardner or the one describing Joey Costello.

- In this novel, Bloor parallels three sets of brothers: Erik and Paul, Mike and Joey, and Luis and Tino. Make a poster comparing and contrasting each pair of brothers.
- Write Paul's IEP, Individualized Education Plan. Set appropriate goals for someone of his age, abilities, and interests. Devise ways to measure how well he has met each of these benchmarks.
- Explain Henry D.'s allusion to the "nine plagues of Egypt." Argue that it does or does not accurately describe the homeowners' situation in the Manors of Coventry.

Speech

- Speaking as Paul, write and deliver a eulogy for Mike Costello.
- Write a cheer for Paul's soccer team. Single out each player for special mention. Work with several classmates to perform your cheer.
- Create a skit showing what might happen if Paul and Kerri did go on a date.

Science and Health

- Imagine you are Erik's doctor. Write a report explaining his problem and the treatment you recommend.
- In a speech, explain how lightning is formed and discharged. Also include guidelines for avoiding injury from lightning.
- The koi keep disappearing from the artificial pond in the development. Devise ways to keep the koi in the pond.
- Explain what it means to be "legally blind."
- At one point, Paul thinks that he has lost his vision because he looked too long at an eclipse. Explain how looking at eclipse can damage your sight. Demonstrate to the class how to monitor an eclipse safely.
- Paul shares some common beliefs about health: "You shouldn't go swimming right after you eat or you'll drown, you shouldn't play in an abandoned refrigerator," and so on. List at least 5 of these beliefs. Then verify whether they are true or false.

- Mrs. Fisher claims that Tangerine County is the lightning capital of the U.S. Find the real lightning capital of the U.S.
- Find out how a sinkhole is formed. Create a model to show how it works.
- Explain how Luis Cruz died.

Physical Education

- Write the rules for soccer. Working with some classmates, play a brief demonstration game for the rest of the class.
- Write the rules for football. Working with some classmates, play a brief demonstration game for the rest of the class.
- Paul is cut from the soccer team because he is visually impaired. Find out the laws concerning handicapped students playing on school teams to determine if the coach was acting within the law.

Student Involvement Activities

- Working with a small group of friends, create Paul's cross-curricular project on Florida agriculture.
- Write and deliver a play-by-play commentary for one of Paul's soccer games.
- Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main themes.
- Debate whether or not students should be involved in organized athletics. Be sure to cite the advantages and disadvantages of being on a team.

Alternate Assessment

- Create a timeline listing the main events in the plot. Include at least 20 events.
- Role play a scene between Paul and Erik ten years in the future.
- Compose a scene in which Paul tells his parents how he feels about their parenting skills.
- Make a character list and explain the character strengths and flaws of each individual.

Vocabulary

Match each word on the left with its synonym on the right. Write the letter of your answer in the space provided.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| _____ 1. illuminated | A. bird |
| _____ 2. commotion | B. turmoil |
| _____ 3. koi | C. heavenly body |
| _____ 4. din | D. understand |
| _____ 5. maroon | E. fruit |
| _____ 6. earnest | F. someone who relocates |
| _____ 7. termites | G. overstating |
| _____ 8. collided | H. lined up |
| _____ 9. predator | I. courses offered by a school |
| _____ 10. avocado | J. predicted |
| _____ 11. migrant | K. loud noise |
| _____ 12. casket | L. exploiter |
| _____ 13. exaggerating | M. insects |
| _____ 14. asteroid | N. disturbance |
| _____ 15. curriculum | O. lit up |
| _____ 16. anticipated | P. dark red |
| _____ 17. osprey | Q. ran into |
| _____ 18. comprehend | R. coffin |
| _____ 19. aligned | S. Japanese goldfish |
| _____ 20. rampage | T. eager |

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| _____ 1. creates a promising new type of tangerine | A. Paul Fisher |
| _____ 2. tries to remove his dead brother's shoes | B. Mike Costello |
| _____ 3. the novel's narrator | C. Joey Costello |
| _____ 4. refuses to have her picture in the newspaper | D. Erik Fisher |
| _____ 5. a tough-taking soccer player | E. Tino Cruz |
| _____ 6. a football player who falsifies his address | F. Gino |
| _____ 7. the center of his father's life, his father's hope for the future | G. Shandra Thomas |
| _____ 8. the best player on Paul's soccer team at Lake Windsor High | H. Luis Cruz |
| _____ 9. killed by lightning on the football field | I. Arthur Bauer |
| _____ 10. Erik's sidekick and follower | J. Antoine Thomas |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- _____ 1. The Fisher family is moving from Tangerine, Florida to Houston, Texas.
- _____ 2. Paul is legally blind, but his vision can be corrected with thick glasses.
- _____ 3. The Lake Windsor Football team never practices or plays during thunderstorms.
- _____ 4. Paul wonders if the muck fires and lightning are linked to the destruction of the tangerine groves that once occupied the land where the development now stands.
- _____ 5. Tino Cruz was killed, struck by lightning during football practice.
- _____ 6. The Tangerine Middle School soccer team is not co-ed.
- _____ 7. Upset by racial issues, Joey transfers back to Lake Windsor High School.
- _____ 8. Paul's vision was damaged when Erik pried his eyelids open while Vincent Castor sprayed white paint into them.
- _____ 9. Joey and Paul had stolen jewelry from families in the community.
- _____ 10. Arthur is arrested for murdering Luis Cruz.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Motivation (30 points)

Complete each line below with a reason or explanation.

1. Paul is not allowed to play on the Lake Windsor soccer team because
2. Joey tries to remove Mike's shoes as he lies dead on the field because
3. The portable classrooms collapse because
4. Paul's father gets his boss' job because
5. Erik is deliberately humiliated at his first football game
6. During the freeze, Paul helps out at the orchard because
7. At a ceremony dedicating a tree to Mike Costello, Tino assaults Erik to
8. The football team's season's record is void because
9. Paul is expelled for
10. Paul is most angry at his parents for

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. How do Paul's parents treat their two sons? Why do they act this way?
2. Which characters do you find most admirable? Why?
3. Describe the relationship between Erik and Paul Fisher.
4. Summarize what you learned about Florida from this novel.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

1. Paul has hazy memories of the terrifying attack that left him **(badly crippled, legally blind)**.
2. Paul feels that **(Erik, Joey)** has been trying to kill him.
3. Paul calls Erik's football career the "Erik Fisher Football **(Reality, Dream)**."
4. The family's new home is battered by near constant **(hurricanes, lightning)**.
5. On the soccer teams, Paul plays **(forward, goalie)**.
6. The heavy rains create a deadly **(sinkhole, mudslide)** at Lake Windsor Middle School.
7. Paul's soccer team is called the **(Tangerine Tops, War Eagles)**.
8. The Golden Dawn is a **(plane, tangerine)**.
9. Arthur sneaks up and hits Luis on his head with a **(rock, blackjack)**.
10. Erik and Arthur hide the stolen goods in the family's **(storage bin, basement)**.

Part II: Matching (30 points)

Match the following quotations with names of characters from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| _____ 1. an engineer | A. Paul Fisher |
| _____ 2. coach of the Lake Windsor Soccer team | B. Mrs. Fisher |
| _____ 3. believes that his brother is trying to kill him | C. Coach Walski |
| _____ 4. the star female soccer player | D. Erik Fisher |
| _____ 5. a thug who follows Erik Fisher and does his dirty work | E. Betty Bright |
| _____ 6. Theresa's brother | F. Coach Bridges |
| _____ 7. coach of the Tangerine Middle School Soccer team | G. Shandra Thomas |
| _____ 8. a handsome, charming, and mentally disturbed football player | H. Luis Cruz |
| _____ 9. tries to stop football practice in thunderstorms | I. Arthur Bauer |
| _____ 10. coach of the Tangerine High School football team | J. Mr. Fisher |

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Explain why each is important in the story.

1. the lightning, sinkhole, and muck fire
2. tangerines
3. the Manors at Coventry
4. The Boy Who Never Grew
5. the koi

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. What does each pair of brothers represent in this novel?
2. How would you describe the Fisher family? Explain.
3. Describe how Paul changes as he experiences the events described in the novel.
4. Trace the novel's plot. Include the rising action, climax, and resolution.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. O | 6. T | 11. F | 16. J |
| 2. N | 7. M | 12. R | 17. A |
| 3. S | 8. Q | 13. G | 18. D |
| 4. K | 9. L | 14. C | 19. H |
| 5. P | 10. E | 15. I | 20. B |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. H | 6. J |
| 2. C | 7. D |
| 3. A | 8. F |
| 4. G | 9. B |
| 5. E | 10. I |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. T | 7. T |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. F | 10. T |

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

- the school considers him handicapped and forbids handicapped students from being on sports teams
- he is trying to make Mike more comfortable, even though he realizes it is futile
- a sinkhole forms (due to corrupt engineering)
- his boss was corrupt or negligent
- another player snatches the ball before he can kick it
- he greatly respects Luis and believes in his new tangerine
- avenge Luis' death
- Antoine Thomas lives out-of-district so he was not eligible to play
- assaulting the coach
- not protecting him against Erik; covering up Erik's assault on him

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. legally blind | 6. sinkhole |
| 2. Erik | 7. War Eagles |
| 3. Dream | 8. tangerine |
| 4. lightning | 9. blackjack |
| 5. goalie | 10. storage bin |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

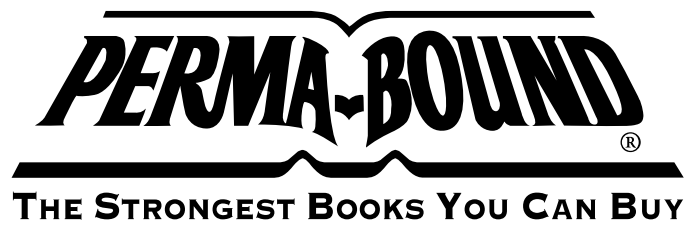
- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. J | 6. H |
| 2. F | 7. E |
| 3. A | 8. D |
| 4. G | 9. B |
| 5. I | 10. C |

Part III: Identification (20 points)

- The lightning, sink hole, and muck fire symbolize the family's hellish new life
- Tangerines represent nature and goodness
- The Manors at Coventry symbolize social climbing and pretension
- The Boy Who Never Grew represents Paul's fears about not being able to recover his repressed memory about the cause of his vision impairment. If he can't recover his memory, he fears he will be unable to mature.
- The koi stands for the family, big fish in a little pond.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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