

# Fever Pitch

Content Area: **English Language Arts**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **1 marking period**  
Length: **Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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This unit will entail a close reading and discussion of selected excerpts from Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch*. Hornby is a famous novelist who is also a rabid supporter of the English soccer club Arsenal. The memoir explores the psychology of fandom of sports and how a fan's relationship with a favorite team can affect and mirror their own lives. Students will apply Hornby's model to a writing project of their own at the end of the unit.

## Transfer

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- appreciate and learn from literature in memoir / autobiography genre.
- have a broader appreciation for non-American sports cultures.
- relate their own experiences to that of a skilled and humorous memoirist.
- interrogate and understand their own relationship to sports.
- articulate verbally and in writing their own relationship to their favorite team.

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For more information, read the following article by Grant Wiggins.

[http://www.authenticeducation.org/ae\\_bigideas/article.lasso?artid=60](http://www.authenticeducation.org/ae_bigideas/article.lasso?artid=60)

## Meaning

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## **Understandings**

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Students will understand that...

- soccer (football) has the same influence on other cultures that American football has on ours.
- fandom can have profound effects on one's personal life.
- sports writing can be highly personal and humorous.
- writing about a favorite team can be a cathartic and enlightening experience.

## **Essential Questions**

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Students will keep considering...

- How does a person fall in love with a team?
- What does a favorite sport or team reveal about a person or a culture?
- What is the "proper place" that sports fandom should occupy in an individual's life?
- What makes personal and humorous sportswriting interesting to others?

## **Application of Knowledge and Skill**

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## **Students will know...**

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Students will know...

The basic structure and fan culture of British football.

How the personal narrative of Horby and English culture parallel the history of Arsenal.

The techniques and strategies used by memoirists.

### **Students will be skilled at...**

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Students will be skilled at...

- independent reading and comprehension.
- collaborating on interpretation and analysis activities.
- verbal and written articulation of their own opinions.
- writing and publication of a piece of narrative writing.

### **Academic Vocabulary**

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Memoir

Subjectivity

Confessional Writing

Irony

Metaphor

Analogy

Britain

London

Home Counties

Highbury

West End

Clock End

Heysel

Hillsborough

League Cup

FA Cup

Football

## Target 2

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**SWBAT** identify and analyze the effect of the strategies used by a memoirist including point of view, tone, subjectivity, voice, and structure.

Key Ideas and Details

Craft and Structure

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

## Target 1

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**SWBAT** identify and analyze the primary conflicts and motivations of a character

LA.RL.11-12

Reading Literature

LA.SL.11-12.1

Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

LA.SL.11-12.4

Present information, findings and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

LA.SL.11-12.6

Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

## Learning Goal 3

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Students will analyze, evaluate, and debate the role that fandom plays in the life of rabid sports fans

## Target 1

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SWBAT to apply their understanding of a text along with their own experiences in order to participate in structured discussions on the effects and meaning of sports fandom.

LA.RL.11-12	Reading Literature
LA.SL.11-12.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
	Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

## **Target 2**

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SWBAT write brief, spontaneous responses to assigned readings that require them to interpret and evaluate the author's opinions on the meaning of fandom.

LA.RL.11-12	Reading Literature
LA.W.11-12.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.W.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

## **Summative Assessment**

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The unit summative assessment will be a personal fan memoir based on specific game moments written by the students in the style of Hornby's memoir.

## **21st Century Life and Careers**

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CAEP.9.2.12.C.3	Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.4	Analyze how economic conditions and societal changes influence employment trends and future education.

## **Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities**

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Formative assessments will include brief written reactions to readings, message board responses, organized group discussion activities, and individual study question responses.

## **Accommodations/Modifications**

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- Provide study guide summaries for struggling readers.
- Provide vocabulary lists for British slang that may be difficult.
- Offer an audio book alternative.
- Offer a video presentation option for the memoir project.

## **Unit Resources**

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- Fever Pitch Books (1992)
- Fever Pitch Film (1997)

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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SOC.9-12.1.1

Chronological Thinking

SOC.9-12.1.2.2

Relate current events to the physical and human characteristics of places and regions.