



# Fred's Dream | The Great Marathon Football Match

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BfK Rating:

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It's good to have these racy, knockabout **Brick Street Boys** books in 'shinyback'. The Ahlberg's fast-moving narratives comes as close to the talk of contemporary seven-ups as anyone's and the pictures are tremendous. I think that they've done more than any other writers/artists for this age group in showing that techniques from the TV screen and the **Beano** can be combined with the power of a good storyteller.

**Fred's Dream** is a good starting point for the unconverted. We meet the main characters and the teachers (so true to life with just the right degree of harassment and idealism!). A storytelling session at the end of the day ('And so the brave knight rode off to find the secret castle') sends Fred off into a dream involving a besieged castle, adventures in night kitchens (a seven-year-old told me that the whole dream is set in storyland!) and a surrealistic finale at Wembley Stadium. How do you feel about the stereotyped Eskimos and marauding Red Indians.?

**The Great Marathon Football Match** has the boys on vivid escapades to raise money for their teams' kit. Again, there's more life, vigour and literate fun than in a shelf full of reading schemes. How do you feel about the sex-stereotyping? Of the I'm sure: the books are unmissable and I can take you to nine-year-olds who've found out what reading is about through them!

Running Order:

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