

# **Quarterback Season by Fred Bowen**

## **Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions**

**Aligned with Common Core Reading Standards**

**Directions:** Use details from the text to support ALL of your responses.

### **Week (Chapter) 1**

**Write down how many grammar and spelling errors you can find in Matt's first week of journal entries. What is Ms. Ignacio's reaction to Matt's entries?**

### **Week 2**

**Matt is confident that he will be picked for quarterback and he says he's not worried about Devro. Why does Ms. Ignacio think that Matt probably isn't being completely honest about his feelings?**

### **Week 3**

**Compare Matt's journal entries in Week 1 with this week. What makes this week's entries so much better?**

### **Week 4**

**Matt only has to write three entries a week for homework. Why does he write an extra entry this week?**

### **Week 5**

**Matt's teacher always includes a quote at the end of her emails and the quotes usually relate to Matt's journal entries. This week the quote is: "Ever tried? Ever failed? No matter. Try again. Fail better." Why does Ms. Ig choose that quote? What does it mean to "Fail better"?**

### **Week 6**

**Why is Matt so upset that he lost his playbook?**

### **Week 7**

**When Colby says that he saw Devro with Matt's playbook, Matt assumes that Devro stole it. Why is Matt so quick to think something bad about Devro?**

### **Week 8**

**Do you think Matt would rather win a big game with Devro as quarterback or lose a big game with Devro as quarterback? Remember to back up your opinion with details from the text.**

## **Week 9**

**Matt is tricked twice by Ms. Roberts and then remembers that Ms. Ig says, “You’ve got to keep your eyes open. Things aren’t always what they seem.” How does that thought apply to the way Matt thinks about Devro?**

## **Week 10**

**Why do you think the author chose to tell the story as a journal instead of like most stories? This story is from Matt’s point of view. How would it be different if it were told from Devro’s point of view?**

## **Week 11**

**Compare Matt’s feelings about Devro at the beginning of the story with the way he feels about Devro now? Did Devro change or did Matt just change the way he felt about him? Explain.**

## **Week 12**

**Once Matt started reading Instant Replay, he couldn’t stop. What made it so interesting to Matt?**

## **Week 13**

**How did writing a journal help Matt better understand his feelings and thoughts about his football season?**

## **Overall Question:**

**In just a few words, write down what this whole story is about (the overall theme or big idea). Explain your response.**

## **The Real Story (The nonfiction section at the end.)**

**How does the information in The Real Story relate to the theme or the plot of the whole story.**