



Changing life stories

# EURO 2017 Writing exercise 5

## If football (or reading) was banned...

The Lily character who features in *Dutch Diaries* first appeared in Tom Palmer's children's book *Secret FC*, where a head teacher bans football, causing Lily and her friends to create their own Secret Football Club.

This is the moment Lily realises the terrible truth, as Mr Edwards explains all in assembly:

*'Last of all,' Mr Edwards said, 'I need to remind students that there was a series of injuries in the playground last year. Some parents have expressed concern which has resulted in a change of school rules. From now on football – and all other ball games – are banned in the school grounds.'*

Imagine that! In your school!

Sometimes people group together and have a revolution when they are not happy with orders from above. Sometimes they argue so well that they create change. Other times people do whatever is banned secretly. Rarely do they give in and accept what they have been told not to do.

What would happen in your school?

We'd like you to write on from here.

Please use this paragraph as a story-starter to set this scene in your school. What would happen next? Would there be uproar in assembly? Or, would the conversations only start in the corridors afterwards? What would the children in your school do about it?

You don't have to stick to the script. You can change the name of the head teacher if you like. You can also choose to have something else banned, if you don't like football. Maybe your head teacher could ban a certain kind of book, or all books, or fidget spinners. It's up to you.

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