

Pick up a copy of this month's **Deadly Vibe** magazine, the special **Indigenous achievers** issue, and complete the following activities.

## READING

### IT'S ALL RELATIVE

**The Steel Cat and The Wizard make playing the game a family affair.**

While Richmond's Graham "Polly" Farmer wasn't the first Aboriginal to make it to the big time in Australian Rules football, he was the code's first black superstar and the first player to truly revolutionise the game, thanks to his unmistakably Aboriginal style of playing.

Graham was also known as the "Steel Cat", and remains one of football's greatest heroes.

He was born in Perth in 1935 and grew up in an orphanage. It was in Western Australia where he first made a name for himself playing football, but it was not until he was 27, and perhaps past his prime, that he made the move to Victoria, quickly taking the league by storm.

In his 101 games for Geelong, Graham revolutionised ruck play and dismantled defences thanks to his amazing handballing ability. He won two Sandover Medals, three Simpson Medals and was selected in the All-Australian team on three occasions. By the time he retired in 1962, he was regarded as one of the Cats' all-time greats and one of the game's most influential and talented players.

Today, Graham's mastery on the football field lives on through his nephew, Jeff Farmer, who made his debut with the Melbourne Demons in 1995 and was quickly dubbed "The Wizard", thanks to his uncanny knack for pinching impossible goals and snatching gravity defying marks.

After six seasons at Melbourne, Jeff switched clubs and moved closer to home, signing with the Fremantle Dockers in 2002, where he has played ever since. Last season he played in every game, kicking 36 goals. His brightest moment so far this season was a seven goal haul against his old club the Demons in round six.





## COMPREHENSION

Answer all questions using full sentences.

★ Briefly explain how Graham “Polly” Farmer revolutionised the game of Australian Rules football.

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★ Who is Graham Farmer’s nephew, and by what name has he been dubbed?

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★ In your own words, briefly outline Jeff Farmer’s football career to date.

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★ Circle the correct answer.

- a. Graham Farmer has won three Sandover Medals, three Simpson Medals and was selected in the All-Australian team on three occasions.
- b. Graham Farmer has won two Sandover Medals, three Simpson Medals and was selected in the All-Australian team on three occasions.
- c. Graham Farmer has won two Sandover Medals, two Simpson Medals and was selected in the All-Australian team on two occasions.
- d. Graham Farmer has won three Sandover Medals, two Simpson Medals and was selected in the All-Australian team on four occasions.



★ Answer true (T) or false (F) to the following statement.

Jeff Farmer now plays with the Fremantle Dockers. \_\_\_\_\_

**A full stop (.) is used to finish a sentence as well as to show an abbreviation. Capital letters are important for the first word in a sentence, for the first word in a quotation, as well as for the names of specific people, places or things.**



★ Re-write the following passage using full stops and capital letters. Check your work against the original article.

while richmond's graham "polly" farmer wasn't the first aboriginal to make it to the big time in australian rules football, he was the code's first black superstar, and the first player to truly revolutionise the game, thanks to his unmistakably aboriginal style of playing

graham was also known as the "steel cat", and remains one of football's greatest heroes

he was born in perth in 1935 and grew up in an orphanage it was in western australia where he first made a name for himself playing football, but it was not until he was 27, and perhaps past his prime, that he made the move to victoria, quickly taking the league by storm

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**A comma (,) is used to indicate a slight break in the sentence. It is used to separate words in a list, to separate numbers, to indicate separate parts of a sentence and to separate adjectives in a list.**



★ Rewrite the following sentences placing commas in the correct places.

Today Graham’s mastery on the football field lives on though his nephew Jeff Farmer who made his debut with the Melbourne Demons in 1995 and was quickly dubbed “The Wizard” thanks to his uncanny knack for pinching impossible goals and snatching gravity defying marks.

After six seasons at Melbourne Jeff switched clubs and moved closer to home signing with the Fremantle Dockers in 2002 where he has played ever since. Last season he played in every game kicking 36 goals. His brightest moment so far this season was a seven goal haul against his old club the Demons in round six.

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**Verbs** are described as the “doing” words in a sentence.



The doing words tell us about the action happening in the sentence.

**eg:** Last season he **played** in every game, **kicking** 36 goals. **Played** and **kicking** are the “doing” words in the sentence.

Make a list of ten verbs, or “doing” words, from the article on Graham “Polly” Farmer.

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**Conjunctions** are joining words. They join words, phrases or clauses in a sentence. Words like **and**, **but** and **then** are all conjunctions.



★ Find and underline the conjunctions in the following sentences.

Graham was also known as the “Steel Cat”, and remains one of football’s greatest heroes.

In his 101 games for Geelong, Graham revolutionised ruck play and dismantled defences thanks to his amazing handballing ability.

He was born in Perth in 1935 and grew up in an orphanage.

He won two Sandover Medals, three Simpson Medals and was selected in the All-Australian team on three occasions.

## WRITING A SUMMARY

Summarising is the skill of being able to take the main points of a story or article and to reproduce these in a shorter piece of writing.

Look at each paragraph on Graham Farmer and jot down in point form any important facts. Check the meanings of any words you are unsure of in a dictionary. Leave out all colourful, descriptive words and condense as much as possible.

Produce a summary of the article on Graham “Polly” Farmer, saying in three or four short sentences what the story is about. It should read fluently, and not sound like a list of points.

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Blank lined writing area for a student's response.

