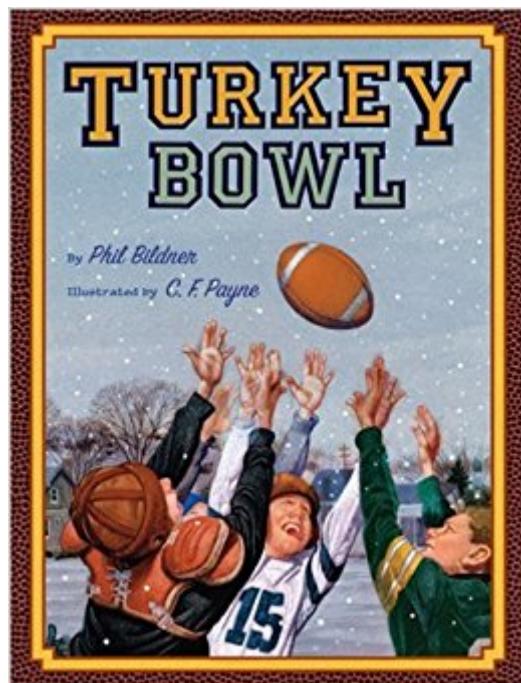


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# Turkey Bowl



## **Synopsis**

It's Thanksgiving, and that means it's time for...football! Ethan has waited his whole nine-year-old life to be old enough to play in the annual family Turkey Bowl football game. This is his year. He wakes up Thanksgiving Day, dresses in all of his football finest, and runs downstairs to greet the team -- his whole family. But the kitchen isn't full of aunts and cousins and uncles -- a blizzard has snowed them out. And it looks like the Turkey Bowl just isn't meant to be this year. After all, who could play football in a blizzard? Ethan, that's who!

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1090L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (September 30, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689878966

ISBN-13: 978-0689878961

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #164,985 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Football #92 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Thanksgiving #177 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

PreSchool-Grade 2 "The duo who created Shoeless Joe and Black Betsy (2002) and The Shot Heard 'Round the World (S & S, 2005) offer another sports story. Every Thanksgiving, Ethan's relatives arrive and, through mud, cold, or fog, they play a wild game of football. Ethan and the neighborhood kids watch the action and long for the day when they can join in. The year that they are finally old enough to play, nine-year-old Ethan leaps out of bed and into his uniform, only to discover that a blizzard has closed roads and the family won't be coming. The disappointed boy gathers his friends and they trudge to the school football field, now covered in snow. In the "ah-ha" moment of the tale, they realize that they have enough kids to play themselves, and the wild and

joyous snow-filled game that ensues carries on the tradition of the Turkey Bowl. As Ethan catches a final touchdown pass, he realizes that his relatives have indeed made the trip and are cheering him on from the sidelines. Payne's muted, full-color illustrations capture the disappointment and joy the characters experience and feature plenty of gridiron action. Perfect for reading aloud at holiday time, this lively story will resonate year-round with sports fans. "Marge Loch-Wouters, Menasha Public Library, WI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

For his first eight years, Ethan hasn't been old enough to play in his family's annual Thanksgiving football game. But he's got memories aplenty, like when it was so cold they called it the Ice Bowl, and when it was so rainy it became the Mud Bowl. Finally old enough to play, Ethan bounds downstairs only to be dismayed by the news that a huge snowstorm has made the roads too dangerous for the family to get through. He and the neighborhood kids glumly watch an empty, snowed-out field, until Ethan decides they can have their own game no matter the conditions. The story bounces from exuberance to despondency and right back, much like the best football games. Payne's paintings have a suitable old-timey, Norman Rockwell-esque quality to them, with plucky kids bedecked in ancient leather helmets and too-big pads. A nostalgic tribute to one of the great sports traditions of all time: the marriage of turkey and tackling shared by families on Thanksgiving. Grades 1-3. --Ian Chipman

Exactly as expected. Fast shipping.

Got the book originally from the library and we fell in love; so much so that we had to purchase it! Sent a copy to my nephew Ethan since the main character is a young boy named Ethan. The illustrations are incredible; so life like! Great story. The kids make me read it over and over!

I love this book! I read it to my 4th graders and they enjoyed it just as much. It's about a family who has a "turkey bowl" every year and finally the little boy is old enough to play in the big game. Shows family traditions and how to work together.

One of Ethan's earliest memories is a long-ago Thanksgiving when he was very small --- too small to go out to play in his extended family's traditional Turkey Bowl football game. That year, it was so cold outside that everyone called the game the "Ice Bowl." They wore layer upon layer of clothes,

and their hair was white with frost. Ethan, along with his best friend Alex and the rest of the small neighbor kids, cheered the game on even as they shivered in the frigid air. One year, Ethan remembers, it rained so hard on Thanksgiving that the football field turned into muck. That year, the family nicknamed the Turkey Bowl the "Mud Bowl," but they had a fabulous time anyway. One aunt slid through the mire to make a touchdown, and a cousin splashed 20 yards for another one. Again, Ethan had been one of a cheering crowd of wet but happy too-small-to-play football fans. The "Fog Bowl" happened last year. Ethan was still just a tiny bit too small to play that gray day. Players found fog football confusing; they couldn't figure out which way to run because they couldn't see in the mist. Ethan, Alex and the neighbor kids could only hear some of the plays, but they cheered like crazy. At long last, finally, when Thanksgiving Day rolls around, Ethan is actually old enough to play in the Turkey Bowl --- and his anticipation is beyond words. So that morning, as the holiday food fragrances waft through his house, Ethan scrambles into his football jersey and pants, his heart thumping fast with excitement. When he bursts into the kitchen, shouting with glee, he sees all the usual Thanksgiving kitchen sights: turkey and ham ready for the oven, squash soup simmering, heaps of stuffing, and an assembly line working on a variety of pies. However, what he doesn't see is what he is the most anxious to find: his Turkey Bowl teammates. Only Mom, Dad and Grandpa are in the kitchen. When he asks where all the relatives are, he finds out that the roads are not passable because of a blizzard, so they are unable to come. Ethan can't believe it. The year he and his friends are old enough to play in the Turkey Bowl, there isn't going to be one. He and Alex spread the word throughout the neighborhood. The downcast youngsters all gather at the school to stare at the snowy football field. But then Ethan gets an idea that just may save the Turkey Bowl... This is a delightfully different Thanksgiving story, refreshingly light on holiday sentimentality. Kids are sure to relate to Ethan's disappointment and then cheer at his solution (and are unlikely to notice that the resolution comes maybe just a shade too easily). Small football fans will be especially enthralled. The illustrations are particularly pleasing; each picture tells a story, capturing emotions and details in a way that may remind parents of Norman Rockwell's paintings. ---

Reviewed by Terry Miller Shannon

While I like the idea behind this story and think that the illustrations are good, there are a few things that don't ring true. Ethan's relatives aren't going to be able to travel through the "blizzard" to share Thanksgiving and the yearly football game with the family. The pictures however show two, maybe three inches at most. The kids aren't even dressed for winter weather. There is no drifting that could be expected with blizzard conditions. I suppose it's possible that Ethan lives in a part of the country

unaccustomed to snow (making even a small amount a very big deal), but there is no information to confirm this supposition. The ending was abrupt. Ethan happily realizes that there are enough neighborhood kids to have the football game. Just as he catches the ball for the winning touchdown, he sees that the family has managed to make it after all. No explanation as to what might have changed to make this possible. I'm just surprised that these issues weren't raised in the editing process.

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