

# Interview with the Authors of the Recently Published *Winning Ways*

*Winning Ways* is a new 16 Guidelines resource for children, published in 2011. The story relates the 16 Guidelines to football – in the words of UK-based authors Roy and Carolyn Gillett, “a one-world surrogate religion.”

Carolyn specialized in teaching younger children. Roy taught English to older pupils. The proposal was devised from methods they had used to encourage children to enjoy reading for its own sake and to arouse interest by encouraging questions and discussion. Here’s an extract from an interview with Roy and Carolyn.

## YOU WERE STUDENTS OF LAMA YESHE. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM?

We first met Lama in 1981 and were profoundly impressed with the way he brought such clarity and enhancement to everyone he met. He seemed to touch people at the level it was most beneficial for them.

Soon after this we heard of his vision of “Universal Education.” We had both been schoolteachers and had recently traveled extensively to many world cultures. So, we were immediately struck by the importance of the Universal Education idea and yet knew the difficulty of bringing it into everyday use for all people.

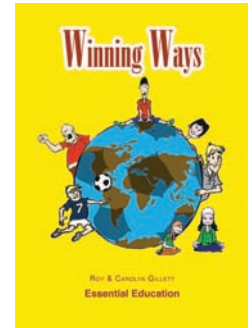
## WHY DID YOU WANT TO WRITE THIS BOOK?

Since the early 1980s, we had helped develop the centers of his mandala, but been unable to do no more than encourage Lama’s vision for Universal Education. So, when Universal Education’s successor, Essential Education, offered the chance to write for children like those we had taught, it was good to feel able at last offer something more substantial.

## HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE PLOT AND THE CHARACTERS?

Football can be seen as a one-world surrogate “religion.” By idealizing some characters and the story line, we hoped many more children and parents could be touched by the benefits of the *16 Guidelines*. So much money and self-indulgence surrounds and can spoil football, yet its devotees want to express love for their teams and favorite players. Why not show that here, as everywhere else, the way of the kind heart is the way to win the ultimate prize in football?

The characters emerged from the developing storyline. Simon Jones is the fans’ ideal footballer: skillful on the ball, honest and generous in personal life, a perfect father and husband, but natural without conceit and keen to advance everyone. Mary is also idealized. She is a young Tara, inspired



Carolyn and Roy Gillett

to courage and kindness by the tragic memories of her mother. Kevin’s father and Mary’s uncle are deliberately drawn as brutes. Between these extremes are other characters that learn and grow through the experience of the *16 Guidelines*.

## WINNING WAYS IS MORE THAN JUST A STORY – IT HAS A LESSON AND A PURPOSE TO HELP CHILDREN CHANGE THEIR LIVES FOR THE BETTER. HOW DO YOU ENVISION PEOPLE USING THIS BOOK? HOW WOULD YOU ADVISE IT BE USED?

Most readers will prefer to read the story from beginning to end, not necessarily taking note of the guidelines. At the end of the book are questions and discussion points, to be used by the children and/or with parents and teachers as they wish. This is where we hope the value of the guidelines will become clear. It would be helpful to read the whole story through again after this study. In this way the book will not just be read, but shared, discussed and become an ongoing way to a happier life.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT WINNING WAYS?

We would be delighted if people wish to translate the story and change the character names, cultural references and result of the World Cup competition to suit their country. We are keen that all sentient beings should be happy!

| You can buy *Winning Ways* online at [www.16guidelines.org](http://www.16guidelines.org).