

Learning on the Soccer Field

by ReadWorks



Gustavo's favorite sport is soccer. When he was only four years old, his older brother taught him how to kick the ball. At first Gustavo was never able to make the ball go where he wanted it to go. Now Gustavo is eight years old, and he has had a lot of practice. Gustavo's brother likes to kick the ball with his right foot. But Gustavo doesn't. Instead, he likes to kick it with his left foot so that it makes a loud sound - thwack! Gustavo calls it his lucky left foot. When Gustavo kicks the soccer ball hard with his left foot, he can make it fly into the goal.

Gustavo lives in Rio de Janeiro, one of the biggest cities in Brazil. Rio de Janeiro is on the beach and has very warm weather. All of Gustavo's friends love to play soccer when they get out of school. Today, there is a new boy at school. His name is Felipe, and he comes from Sao Paulo. Sao Paulo is another city in Brazil and has lots of tall buildings called skyscrapers.

After school, the boys invite Felipe to play soccer with them. Felipe says okay but looks very nervous.

As they walk to the soccer field, Gustavo asks Felipe, "What's wrong?" Felipe sighs and says, "I don't know how to play soccer. I tried once and everybody laughed at me." Gustavo pats Felipe on the shoulder. "That's alright," says Gustavo. "I used to be really bad too. You have to keep trying."

The game starts, and Gustavo moves to the front of the field. He plays the forward position and is always trying to score a goal on the other team. Gustavo feels happy every time he plays soccer and tonight he is playing even better than usual. He steals the ball from the other team and runs with it as fast as he can. Thwack! Gustavo kicks the ball with his lucky left foot and it flies through the sky into the goal. Everybody cheers and Gustavo feels like he is the king of the soccer field.

After the game, Gustavo and Felipe stay on the field to practice. Gustavo shows Felipe how he kicks with his lucky left foot. When Felipe tries to kick the ball, it goes in the wrong direction. Gustavo doesn't laugh at Felipe. Instead, he looks and sees that Felipe is kicking the wrong part of the ball with his foot. Gustavo shows Felipe where to kick the ball, and already Felipe is a little bit better. The rest of the week Gustavo and Felipe practice on the soccer field after the other boys leave. Felipe also practices kicking the ball before school. The next week Felipe scores his first goal, and Gustavo gives him a big high-five. Now Felipe looks forward to playing soccer every day, and Gustavo has a new friend.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What sport do Gustavo and Felipe play?

- A. baseball
- B. basketball
- C. soccer
- D. tennis

2. In this story, an effect is that Felipe gets better at soccer. What is the cause?

- A. Felipe gets laughed at the first time he tries to play soccer.
- B. Felipe practices kicking the soccer ball.
- C. Felipe kicks the soccer ball with the wrong part of his foot.
- D. Gustavo gives Felipe a big high-five.

3. Gustavo is good at soccer.

What evidence from the story supports this conclusion?

- A. After a week of practice, Felipe scores his first goal and Gustavo gives him a big high-five.
- B. During a soccer game, Gustavo steals the ball from the other team and kicks it into the goal.
- C. When Gustavo's older brother taught him how to kick a soccer ball, Gustavo was never able to make it go where he wanted.
- D. Gustavo lives in Rio de Janeiro, a big city in Brazil that has very warm weather.

4. How do Felipe's feelings about playing soccer change in the story?

- A. He goes from feeling nervous to feeling excited.
- B. He goes from feeling excited to feeling nervous.
- C. He goes from feeling kind to feeling angry.
- D. He goes from feeling angry to feeling kind.

5. What is a theme of this story?

- A. Living somewhere with warm weather is a lot of fun.
- B. Playing sports causes children to be mean to each other.
- C. People should choose their friends carefully.
- D. People can get better at something through practice.

6. Read the following sentences: "Gustavo's brother likes to kick the ball with his right foot. But Gustavo doesn't. Instead, he likes to kick it with his left foot so that it makes a loud sound - **thwack!**"

Why does the author write **thwack!** in the sentence above?

- A. to give readers an idea of what the loud sound was
- B. to show readers why Gustavo likes soccer so much
- C. to make readers feel sorry for Gustavo
- D. to help readers understand what going to school in Brazil is like

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Felipe is nervous about playing soccer at first, _____ he looks forward to playing every day by the end of the story.

- A. as a result
- B. yet
- C. like
- D. so

8. What happens when Felipe tries to kick the soccer ball at first?

9. What happens after Felipe practices kicking the soccer ball?

10. In this story, is practice important to playing soccer? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.