Suggested levels for Guided Reading, DRA™, Lexile®, and Reading Recovery™ are provided in the Pearson Scott Foresman Leveling Guide.

The Winning Point!

By Fay Robinson
Illustrated by Jacqueline Justine

Genre Comprehension Skills and Strategy

- Generalize
- Plot
- Summarize

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3.4.1

Scott Foresman is an imprint of

PEARSON

ISBN-10: 0-328-51398-9
The Winning Point!

By Fay Robinson
Illustrated by Jacqueline Justine

Vocabulary
basketball
disease
freeze
guard
popular
sports
study
terrible

Word count: 420
Lucy was on the soccer team, and she was good. She could sprint down the field faster than anyone. She was great at passing the ball to her teammates. She could guard the goal so that the ball couldn’t get through.
There was one problem. Lucy never scored. When she was near the goal with the ball, her heart would pound. She could see everyone watching her. She’d see the other players running toward her. She’d hear everyone calling to her. Then the other team would steal the ball. It happened every time.

“I’m terrible at soccer,” Lucy said to Isabel.
“You’re wrong. You are good,” said Isabel.
“When I’m at the goal, I freeze. I feel so dumb. I think I should switch to playing basketball. I know. I’ll pretend I have a terrible disease,” Lucy replied.
Isabel passed the ball to Lucy. Lucy kicked it in the goal.
The next day, Lucy went to the library. She wanted to study about soccer in books. She hoped she’d learn something.

Among the sports books, Lucy found a book by a popular soccer player. Lucy started reading.

The author wrote that she hadn’t always been good at playing soccer. “I used to panic. I needed to learn to focus,” said the author. “I told myself that no one was watching. I had to imagine it was just me and the ball.”

Lucy thought this was very interesting. She wondered whether that advice might help her too.
At the next game, Lucy played well. She ran fast and passed the ball perfectly to Isabel. Isabel scored!

The game was exciting, and Lucy was having fun. Each team scored again and again. It was turning into a close game!

With only one minute left, the game was tied. Lucy passed the ball to Isabel and ran toward the goal. Isabel kicked it back to Lucy.

Lucy was right in front of the goal with the ball. “Oh no,” thought Lucy. She started to panic. She looked for someone to pass the ball to.
Players from both teams were coming closer. Lucy had to do something, but she couldn’t move.

“You can do it!” shouted Isabel.

Lucy took a deep breath. “It’s just me and the ball,” she thought. She swung her foot and kicked.

“Goal!” the coach called. “We won!” called her teammates. “You won the game for us!” someone shouted.

“How did you get over your fear?” Isabel asked.

Lucy just smiled. “It was nothing, really. I just needed to focus.”
No one knows when the first soccer game was played. Soccer-like games may have been played as many as 3,000 years ago.

The first soccer rules were written down in 1815 in England. Soccer did not become popular in the United States until the 1950s.

Soccer is called “football” in every country except the United States, Canada, and Australia. It is the most popular sport in the world. It is played in more than 200 countries.

The championship game is called the World Cup. More than 30 million people watched the last World Cup. That is more people than watched the Olympics!

1. What is a general statement that might be true of many soccer players?

2. Summarize the story you just read. Make a chart like the one below to help you list the main events in the story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event 1</th>
<th>Event 2</th>
<th>Event 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Choose four vocabulary words from the list on the inside cover and use them to write a short paragraph summarizing the story.

4. Write a few sentences about a time you surprised yourself by doing something you didn’t think you could do.