

Name: _____

Friendly Sports

By Kelly Hashway

Mindy gathered her books and headed to the gym. Sign ups for after school sports programs were today. She'd been looking forward to this all summer. She and her older brother, Jeff, played soccer just about every day.



"Hey, Mindy," Laurie said, meeting her at the gymnasium door. "I can't wait to sign up, can you?"

"No. I'm really excited." Mindy saw the soccer coach bouncing the ball from knee to knee. She hoped he'd teach her to do that, too. She turned toward the coach, but Laurie tugged on her arm.

"Where are you going? Cheerleading sign ups are over there." Laurie pointed to a woman with a clipboard and a set of pompoms.

"Cheerleading?" Mindy asked.

"Yeah," Laurie said. "We're all signing up. Tara, Beth, Liz, and me. You have to sign up with us."

Mindy looked at the soccer coach again. Now he was bouncing the ball from his knee to his head. "But I've been practicing for soccer."

"Soccer? Really?" Laurie looked confused. "Why didn't you tell me?"

"You were away for most of the summer." Mindy watched as Tara, Beth, and Liz walked over to the cheerleading coach. They saw her and motioned for Mindy and Laurie to come over. Mindy was torn. She wanted to be with her friends, but she really wanted to play soccer.

"Why do you want to play soccer?" Laurie asked.

Mindy turned toward the coach again. "That's one reason. Look at all the cool tricks he can do with the ball. And I'm pretty good at goalie. By the end of the summer, Jeff had a hard time getting the ball past me."

Laurie nodded and stared at the coach in awe. "Those tricks are pretty cool."

"Why do you want to be a cheerleader?" Mindy asked her.

Laurie shrugged. "Tara, Beth, and Liz are doing it. I thought it would be fun to join together."

Mindy couldn't deny it would be fun to join a sport with all her friends. "You're right. Maybe I'll join cheerleading, too." She started to walk toward her friends, but Laurie grabbed her arm again.

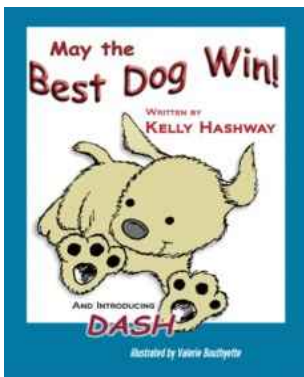
"Wait. What if I join soccer with you?"

"Really?" Mindy smiled.

"Yeah. I think I'd like to give it a try, but I might need you to help me practice."

Mindy put her arm around Laurie's shoulders. "You got it." Mindy couldn't wait to start practice. She was going to play her favorite sport right alongside her best friend.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

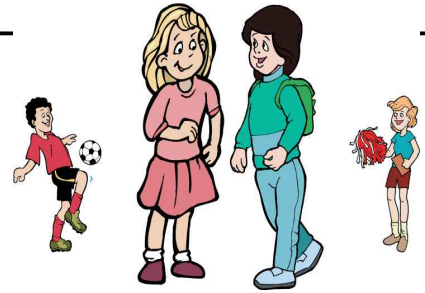
Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. At the beginning of the story...
 - a. Mindy wanted to sign up for cheerleading.
 - b. Mindy wasn't sure which sport she wanted to sign up for.
 - c. Mindy wanted to sign up for soccer.
 - d. Mindy was playing soccer with her brother.

2. Did Laurie know that Mindy wanted to play soccer? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

3. The story says, "Mindy was torn?" What does this mean?
 - a. She knew the right thing to do.
 - b. Her friends had hurt her feelings.
 - c. She was feeling very sad and depressed.
 - d. She didn't know what choice she should make.

4. What choice did Laurie make at the end of the story?

5. Where does this story take place?
 - a. after school
 - b. at the school
 - c. at Mindy's house
 - d. before school

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.



1. _____ gymnasium

a. amazement

2. _____ clipboard

b. unable to think clearly

3. _____ confused

c. unable to decide between two good choices

4. _____ torn

d. a decorative ball of fluff

5. _____ goalie

e. next to

6. _____ awe

f. large room with a wooden floor for playing sports

7. _____ alongside

g. board with a spring clip at the top

8. _____ pompoms

h. player in sports who blocks a ball to keep it from going into the net

❖ **Now try this:** Find each of the words above in the story and highlight them.

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In the story, “Friendly Sports,” Mindy can’t decide whether to sign up for soccer, the sport she loves, or to sign up for cheerleading, the sport all of her friends are signing up for.

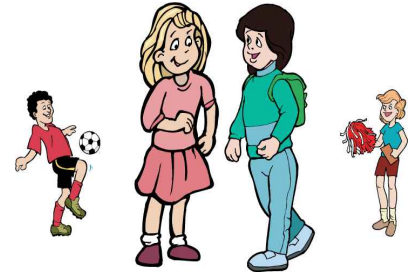
Describe a time when you've had to make a tough decision.

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

Friendly Sports

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 - b. Mindy wasn't sure which sport she wanted to sign up for.
 - c. Mindy wanted to sign up for soccer.
 - d. Mindy was playing soccer with her brother.

2. Did Laurie know that Mindy wanted to play soccer? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

Laurie did not know that Mindy wanted to play soccer. In the story she seems confused when Mindy mentioned soccer. She says, "Soccer? Really? Why didn't you tell me?"

3. The story says, "Mindy was torn?" What does this mean? d
 - a. She knew the right thing to do.
 - b. Her friends had hurt her feelings.
 - c. She was feeling very sad and depressed.
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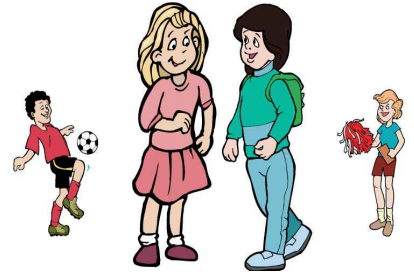
She decided to sign up for soccer so she could play with Mindy.

5. Where does this story take place? b
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