Name: _____ Date: _____

The Substitute Goalie

Circle group

Sam had always played defense. He was surprised when Coach Reyes called him over on Thursday. "Lucas sprained his wrist at school," she said. "Saturday's game is a big one. I need a goalie. Can you do it?"

Sam swallowed. A goalie stands alone in front of the net. Everyone watches. If the ball gets past, nobody can blame someone else. But he did not want to let the team down. So he nodded.

That afternoon his sister Jess helped him practice in the backyard. She kicked shot after shot. At first the ball zoomed past him. "You watch my face," she said. "Watch the ball and my foot." After a dozen tries, he began to guess where each kick would go. By dinner he had stopped half of them. His gloves were covered in grass.

On Saturday, the other team scored first. Sam's heart pounded. Coach called out, "Shake it off. Watch the ball." In the second half, a tall striker raced toward the net. She fired a hard shot at the corner. Sam dove. He stretched his fingertips and knocked it away. His team cheered.

A few minutes later, his team scored too. The game ended in a tie. Sam did not mind. In the parking lot, Lucas held up a hand with his wrist wrapped. "Nice save," he said.

Questions

1. Why did Coach Reyes need a new goalie?

_____

_____

2. What advice did Jess give Sam?

_____

_____

3. How did the game end?

_____

_____

4. Why was Sam nervous about being the goalie?

_____

_____

5. How do you know Sam got better?

_____

_____

Words to know

goalie: the player who guards the net
sprained: hurt by twisting a joint too far
striker: a player whose job is to score goals
defense: the players who try to stop the other team from scoring

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Substitute Goalie

Triangle group

Sam had always played defense, so he was surprised when Coach Reyes called him over after practice on Thursday. "Lucas sprained his wrist at school today," she explained, "and since Saturday's game is an important one, I need somebody to play goalie. Do you think you could do it?"

Sam swallowed hard. Goalies stood alone in front of the net while everyone watched every move, and if the ball slipped past, nobody could pretend that the mistake belonged to someone else. Even so, he did not want to disappoint his teammates, so he nodded slowly.

That afternoon his older sister Jess helped him practice in the backyard. She kicked shot after shot, and at first the ball whizzed past him before he could even move. "You are watching my face," she pointed out, "when you should be watching the ball and my foot." After a dozen tries he began to predict where each kick was headed, and by dinnertime he had stopped about half of them, although his gloves were covered in grass.

On Saturday the other team scored first, and Sam's heart pounded, but Coach called from the sideline, "Shake it off and keep your eyes on the ball." In the second half, a tall striker raced toward the net and fired a hard shot at the corner. Sam dove, stretched his fingertips as far as they would go, and knocked it away while his teammates cheered.

A few minutes later his team scored a goal of its own, and the game ended in a tie. Sam did not mind at all. In the parking lot, Lucas, with his wrist wrapped in a bandage, held up a hand for a high five and said, "Nice save."

Questions

1. Why did Coach Reyes need a new goalie?

_____

_____

2. What advice did Jess give Sam during practice?

_____

_____

3. What was the final result of the game?

_____

_____

4. Why was Sam nervous about being a goalie?

_____

_____

5. How do you know Sam improved during the story?

_____

_____

Words to know

goalie: the player who guards the net
sprained: hurt by twisting a joint too far
striker: a player whose job is to score goals
defense: the players who try to stop the other team from scoring
whizzed: moved past very fast with a buzzing sound

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Substitute Goalie

Square group

Sam had always played defense, so he was astonished when Coach Reyes called him over after practice on Thursday afternoon. "Lucas sprained his wrist at school today," she explained, "and since Saturday's game is a crucial one for our season, I need somebody to play goalie. Do you think you could do it?"

Sam swallowed hard. Goalies stood alone in front of the net while everyone watched every move, and if the ball slipped past, nobody could pretend that the mistake belonged to someone else. Even so, he did not want to disappoint his teammates, so he nodded slowly and promised to try his best.

That afternoon his older sister Jess helped him practice in the backyard. She kicked shot after shot, and at first the ball whizzed past him before he could even move. "You are watching my face," she pointed out, "when you should be watching the ball and my foot." After a dozen attempts he began to predict where each kick was headed, and by dinnertime he had stopped about half of them, although his gloves were thoroughly covered in grass.

On Saturday the other team scored first, and Sam's heart pounded, but Coach called from the sideline, "Shake it off and keep your eyes on the ball." In the second half, a tall striker raced toward the net and fired a ferocious shot at the corner. Sam dove, stretched his fingertips as far as they would possibly go, and knocked it away while his teammates erupted in cheers.

A few minutes later his team scored a goal of its own, and the game ended in a tie. Sam did not mind in the slightest. In the parking lot, Lucas, with his wrist wrapped snugly in a bandage, held up a hand for a high five and said, "Nice save."

Questions

1. Why did Coach Reyes need somebody to play goalie on Saturday?

_____

_____

2. What advice did Jess give Sam during practice?

_____

_____

3. How did the game end?

_____

_____

4. Why was Sam so nervous about playing goalie?

_____

_____

5. What evidence shows that Sam improved during the story?

_____

_____

Words to know

goalie: the player who guards the net
sprained: hurt by twisting a joint too far
striker: a player whose job is to score goals
defense: the players who try to stop the other team from scoring
whizzed: moved past very fast with a buzzing sound

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Substitute Goalie

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Substitute Goalie

Easier · 222 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. Lucas sprained his wrist.
2. To watch the ball and her foot, not her face.
3. In a tie.
4. A goalie stands alone, and if the ball gets past, nobody else can be blamed.
5. He went from missing most shots to stopping half, then made a diving save in the game.

Triangle: The Substitute Goalie

This passage · 287 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. Lucas sprained his wrist.
2. To watch the ball and her foot instead of her face.
3. A tie.
4. A goalie stands alone, and if the ball gets past him, nobody else can be blamed.
5. He went from missing most shots to stopping about half and then making a diving save in the game.

Square: The Substitute Goalie

Harder · 303 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.4

1. Lucas had sprained his wrist at school.
2. To watch the ball and her foot instead of her face.
3. In a tie.
4. A goalie stands alone, and if the ball slips past, nobody else can be blamed for the mistake.
5. He began by missing nearly every shot, then stopped about half, and finally made a diving save in the game.