

**PART 1**  
**READING ALOUD**

*In this passage, a boy becomes a hero by accident.*

David did not think of himself as a good footballer. He preferred gymnastics and chess, and thought most of his friends were far better at football than he was. Yet here he was, sent on to play for the school team, after Hamid (who was the captain and top goal-scorer) had twisted his ankle in a tackle.

To make things worse, this match was the climax of the team's season: the regional Cup Final. The game was nearly over, but neither side had been able to score a goal. David was terribly nervous. The opposing team all seemed bigger than he was, and getting the ball past their goalkeeper, who was very tall, looked completely impossible.

When the ball first came to his feet, David was tackled heavily from behind and fell flat on his face. As he picked himself up, something hit him hard on the back of the head, knocking him down yet again. He lay on the grass, and quietly swore to himself that he would never play this horrible game again.

The ball, meanwhile, had bounced off the back of his head. It flew high and fell, just behind the reach of the tall goalkeeper, then rolled into the net. Before he could get up, David was engulfed by his celebrating team-mates. He had scored the winning goal!

"And we salute," said the School Principal at assembly, "the scorer of yesterday's winning wonder-goal!" The whole school applauded. David had never felt so embarrassed.



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