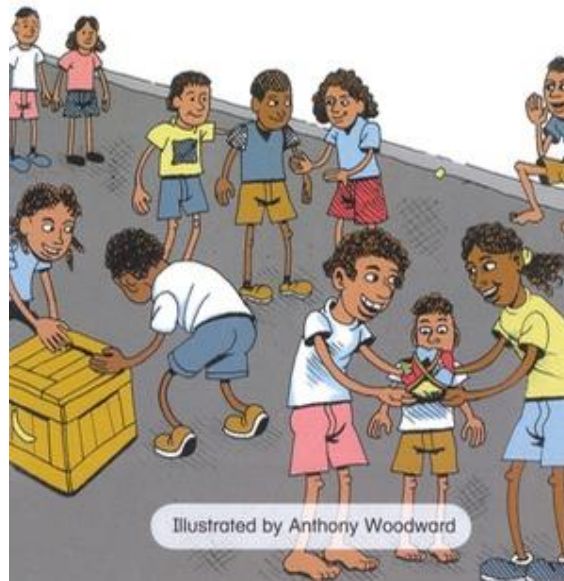




All in a Game

Claire Kamber



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Pedro, with his mother and sister, is leaving his home in Brazil to start a new life in Australia.

When it is time to say goodbye, Pedro's friends give him a special present – a wonderful soccer ball.

Australia is very different to Brazil. Will Pedro ever feel at home there?

34 pages, 2200 words, 14 black and white illustrations

ball was okay. It was made from screwed-up newspaper. Sometimes the ball came apart and they used string and chewing gum to hold it together.

Sixteen children played in the game. The rules were simple. Everyone had a turn with the ball. There was no referee. The children wanted a good game. Together they made sure everyone had a fair go.

The game went on for thirty minutes. It was a draw, two goals each. No-one minded. It didn't matter if there wasn't a winning team. It was more important to have fun.

After the game, everyone stood around Pedro. 'We have a present for you, Pedro,' said Lisa.

'We knew exactly what we wanted to get for you,' added Carlos.

Carlos opened a paper bag from his feet and took out a new soccer ball. Everyone smiled as he handed it to Pedro.

Pedro knew how much a new soccer ball cost. He knew how long his friends must have been saving for this.



'Well, I see we have a soccer player with us today. Would you like to tell us about your ball, Pedro?' she asked.

Pedro felt afraid. All the children looked at him. He couldn't tell them about the ball. His English wasn't good enough.

'Go on,' said Emma. 'You'll be fine. Just tell them what you told me.'

Pedro stood up and held his ball.

'This ball comes from Brazil. Every day I play soccer with my friends. We play in the street. Many children play. Sometimes twenty, sometimes thirty. It doesn't matter how many. We play to be happy. Some children have no shoes, but they play anyway. The ball is paper and is not good. Not like this one. But we have a happy time.'



All the children watched Pedro. He looked down at his ball.

'When I leave Brazil, I play with my friends for last time. Then they give me this ball as present. They save money and buy it. They all write names on it. It is to say goodbye.'

Pedro held the ball up and pointed to the names. Mrs Kale began to clap. All the children joined in.

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