

Alex

the Super Soccer Striker



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Illustrations by Wayne Bryant

PM



For teachers' inspection ONLY

Alex the Super Soccer Striker

Level 25

Running Words 1951 Text Type Narrative (Imaginative)

Curriculum Areas Literacy; Health and Physical Education

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the story in his or her own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

- 1 Why did Alex feel very shy?
- 2 What position did Alex play in during the trial game?
- 3 What happened when Zac was cornered by three defenders during the trial game?

Inferential

- 4 Why did Zac guess that Alex probably played hockey or netball?
- 5 Who had been the captain of the school soccer team last year?
- 6 Why did Ms Jackson say "Maybe we are in for some surprises this year"?
- 7 What was Zac's reason for telling Alex there weren't any other girls taking part in the soccer trials?
- 8 Why didn't Alex tell Zac she was an experienced soccer player?
- 9 Why did Zac call Alex 'Alexandra'?

Applied Knowledge

- 10 Why do people's cheeks sometimes turn red when they feel embarrassed?
- 11 Why do some people think that boys and girls shouldn't play in the same team?
- 12 Why do many children want to be like sports stars?

Vocabulary

Replace the adverb 'politely' in this sentence:

Alexandra smiled politely at Mr Simpson.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 25 Book Narrative *The Swimming Pool Project*

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Chapter 1

The Newest Class Member



Alexandra Johnson was feeling very shy. Her family had moved into a new neighbourhood, and it was her first day at a new school.

Alexandra stood next to the teacher, Mr Simpson, and looked down at her shoes. She didn't want to look up at the faces of the other children staring at her.

“Good morning, class,” said Mr Simpson, in a loud, friendly voice. “I would like you to welcome the newest member of our class, Alexandra Johnson.”

Alexandra was sure her cheeks were turning red. She slowly lifted her head and looked towards the back of the class.

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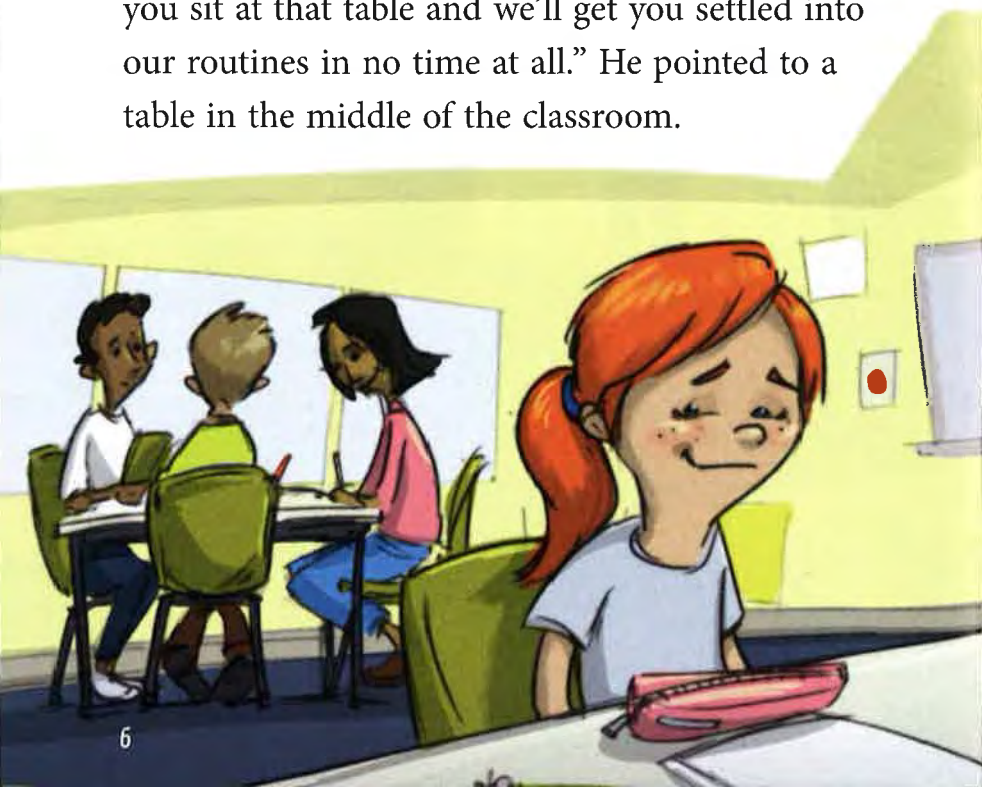
“So, Alexandra, tell us where you’re from,” said Mr Simpson, smiling at her.

Alexandra looked up at him, feeling slightly breathless. “Um, from a different city ... really far away from here,” she murmured.

“Interesting,” Mr Simpson said. “Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself today?”

Alexandra slowly shook her head. “Not really,” she replied.

“No problems,” said Mr Simpson. “Why don’t you sit at that table and we’ll get you settled into our routines in no time at all.” He pointed to a table in the middle of the classroom.



Alexandra took a seat next to a tall boy with dark hair.

“Zac,” said Mr Simpson, “you’ll make Alexandra feel right at home this morning, won’t you?”

“Yep,” Zac said, nodding.

Alexandra smiled politely at Mr Simpson and took out a pen from her pencil case.





Mr Simpson began writing energetically on the whiteboard. He wrote: *soccer, table tennis, hockey, baseball, netball.*

“All right, everyone,” said Mr Simpson. “This is a final reminder. If you are interested in playing any of these sports, you will need to write your name on the sign-up sheet on the noticeboard outside this classroom. The sheet will be up until 3 o’clock this afternoon. Be quick or you will miss out.”

At the end of class, Mr Simpson walked over to Alexandra and smiled at her.

“Are you interested in playing sport at our school?” he asked.

Alexandra nodded shyly but didn't say anything.

Zac, who was wearing a soccer shirt, swung around in his chair. “Let me guess,” he said to Alexandra, “you play either hockey or netball?”

Alexandra coughed into her hand. “Maybe,” she whispered.



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Alexandra is very nervous about starting at a new school. She wants to be chosen for the first eleven of the soccer team. But she is the only girl at the trials.

Will Alex find her confidence in time to become a super soccer striker?



Text Type:
Narrative (Imaginative)



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