Play On!



Story by Carmel Reilly
Illustrations by Martin Fagan

PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Play On!

Level 28
Running Words 5009 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)
Curriculum Areas Literacy; The Arts; Personal and Social Capability

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 the coach remind Sam about being punctual?
2 Why was Sam having doubts about basketball?
3 Why did Miles get the role of Waldo in the play?

Inferential

4 Why had Sam become a skilful basketball player?
5 Why did the play require so many weeks of rehearsals?
6 What did Miles mean when he said, *"My bad break has become a good break for you."*?
7 Why did Sam wait until his parents were relaxed before he told them about the play?
8 Why did Sam's father believe that Sam was the best player in the team?

Applied Knowledge

9 How did reading affect both Sam and Miles?
10 Why are sports stars at school often very popular?
11 Why were Sam's sporting achievements important to his father?

Vocabulary

Replace the adverb 'ultimately' in this sentence:
It could ultimately be you who determines if the team is placed in the finals or not.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 27	Book	Narrative	*Beatbox Brothers*
Level 28	Book	Narrative	*Banding Together*

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CHAPTER 1
On the Way



Sam

Sam was late for basketball practice. He was running towards the gym when, out of the corner of his eye, he glimpsed a bright red, yellow and blue poster outside the school hall. He hastily changed direction so he could read it.



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The Great Waldo! Sam could hardly believe it. They were his favourite stories. He had read the books at least ten times when he was younger. Now there was a play as well. He thought about all the different characters in the stories. The main character was Waldo, the mischievous circus clown who performed tricks, told hilarious jokes and – most importantly – solved mysteries, such as the mystery of the missing elephant.

Then there were other characters, such as Horace the lion tamer, Archie and Chloe the acrobats, Clem the odd-job man and Martha the circus manager. And finally, there was Ronaldo the devious ringmaster, who was always trying to outsmart Waldo. Somehow, though, Waldo always managed to succeed and made Ronaldo look extremely silly.



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Sam laughed to himself as he recalled some of the antics of his favourite book characters. He was still smiling when he burst through the doors of the gym.

"Is something amusing, Sam?" asked Mr Gilmore, the basketball coach.

Sam shook his head, and his smile faded. "Sorry I'm late," he said.

Mr Gilmore scowled. "You know the rules, Sam. It is important that everyone is punctual and ready for basketball practice. And you know we need to work extremely hard if we are going to make it to the finals."

"Late again," said his friend Zane, elbowing Sam playfully. "Anyone would think you didn't want to be here!"



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Sam didn't have time to reply. A basketball was soaring through the air towards him and he had to leap high to catch it. Sam knew that he was a skilful player, but that he needed to improve. The truth was that although he enjoyed playing basketball, he didn't feel the same passion and drive that other players did about basketball. His father and grandfather had been basketball champions when they were young, and his mother represented the state at hockey. Everyone in his family loved sport.



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Recently, though, Sam had been having doubts. Perhaps he wasn't really that interested in basketball any more. And, he had been thinking about other things, such as acting. His dad was convinced that Sam was going to be a sports champion like him. He was always telling Sam not to be distracted and to practise more. But it was such a coincidence seeing the poster for the play today. Sam loved the idea of being on stage and transforming himself into another character for an hour or two. If he could be part of the school play, it wouldn't really affect basketball practice.

Maybe ... he thought, *maybe this is my opportunity.*



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CHAPTER 2
Who Do You Really Want to Be?



Miles

Miles smiled. This was his first drama class with Ms Norton and he had loved every minute of it. Ms Norton was so enthusiastic!

"That was fantastic, everyone!" said Ms Norton, smiling brightly. "You've been a wonderful group of students."

When the class ended, Ms Norton called Miles over.

"Miles," she said, "are you considering auditioning for a part in *The Great Waldo* play?"

"Yes, I am," Miles replied.

"Excellent," Ms Norton said. "And which role will you try out for?"

Miles felt slightly nervous. He didn't want to seem overly confident. "I would love to play the main role of Waldo," he said. "Or Ronaldo. I imagine that Ronaldo could be an interesting character to play, too."

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Sam is the star player of the school basketball team, and the finals are fast approaching. But when he is chosen for a role in the school play, he's under pressure to find time for both basketball practice and play rehearsals.

Sam's dad is concerned – will Sam be letting his basketball team-mates down, now that he has more commitments? And can Sam's new friendship with fellow actor Miles see them through the ups and downs in the lead-up to the play?



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