

Springboard

into
Comprehension

6

Main Idea Number 15 Orchard Street
Piracy in the Modern Age

Compare and Contrast Back from the Brink
Two Dying Seas

Fact and Opinion **On the Ball**

What's the Real Story?

Cause and Effect Inventions by Women
Use It, Wear It

Bias and Prejudice My Way or the Highway?
Whaling

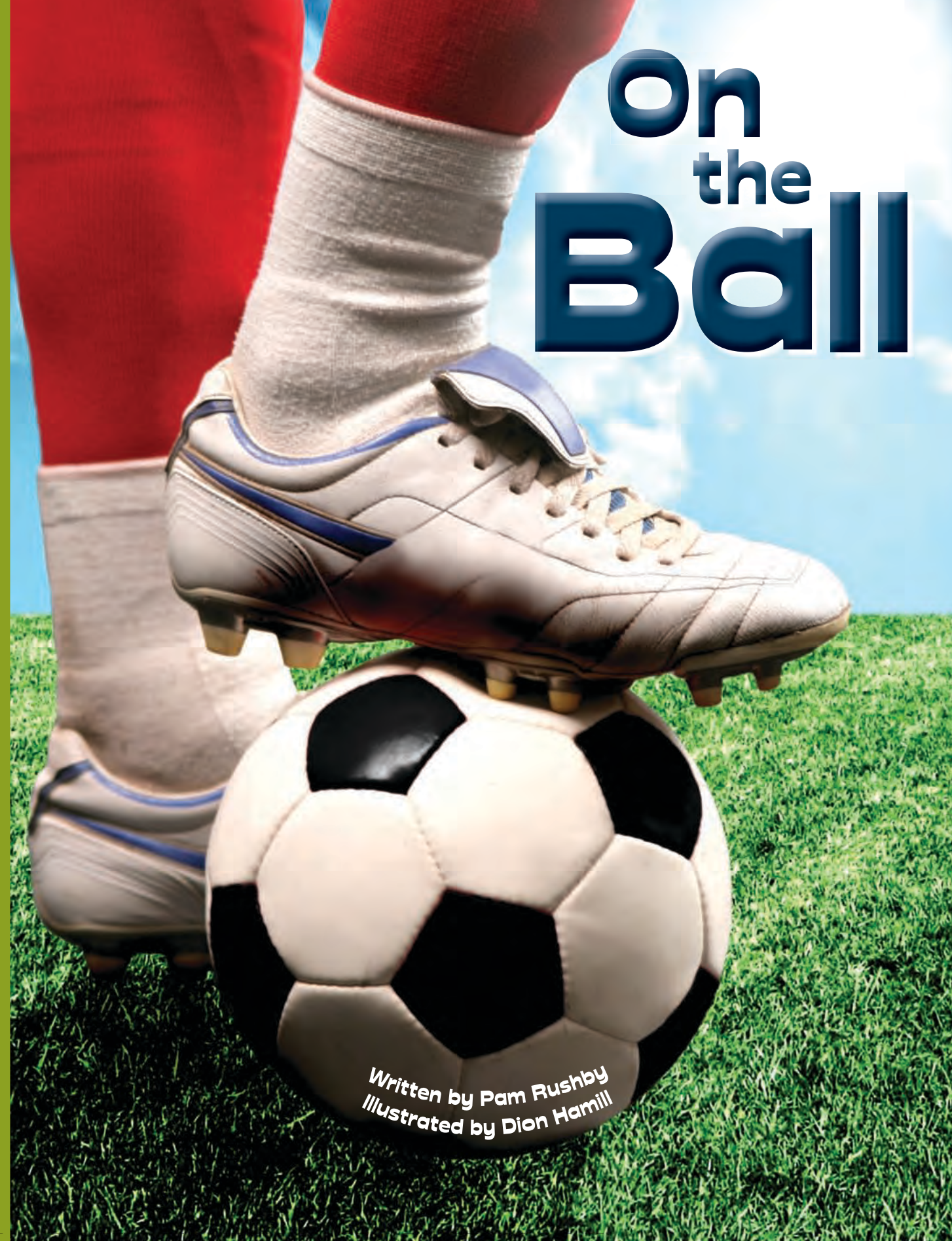
Figurative Language The Book of Banjo Paterson
Gold in the Hills

RA 11.5–12.5



Literary Recount

On the Ball



Written by Pam Rushby
Illustrated by Dion Hamill

A dynamic illustration of two soccer players in action. The player on the left, wearing a yellow jersey with the number 4, is reaching out with his right arm to touch the ball. The player on the right, wearing a grey jersey with the number 8, is also reaching for the ball. They are both focused on the ball, which is in the center of the frame. The background is a simple, dark blue sky with a few white clouds. The style is a soft, painterly illustration.

Written by Pam Rushby
Illustrated by Dion Hamill

Second Term

Second term at school started today and right away, I got on my teacher's bad side, and ended up with a truly awful job to do for the rest of the term!

Ms Tanaka had been to Thailand for the holidays. She told us she'd had a really great time, but she didn't seem as cheerful as she usually is, so I reckoned she'd rather have still been there instead of here – in front of a class of 12-year-olds. When I was whispering to Katie and Bella that Liam Kennedy thought a new Phys Ed teacher would be starting this term, Ms Tanaka suddenly stopped explaining who was going to be library monitor for the term, and who was going to collect orders at lunchtime, and stuff like that, and gave me the evil eye.

"Rebecca," she said, "you seem to have a lot to say today – would you like to share it with the class?"

"Oh," I gasped. "Um, well, I was just talking about what we're going to be doing this term." Which I was, sort of, and I thought she couldn't object to that. I was about to discover just how wrong I was.



“In that case,” said Ms Tanaka, “I think I have exactly the job for you. A person who likes to spread the word about everything we’re doing is precisely the person I need to write the class blog.”

“Um, class blog?” I mumbled, embarrassed and confused.

“Yes,” said Ms Tanaka. “Who knows what a blog is?”

“It’s a weblog, a kind of online diary,” answered Ryan. Ryan is the most computer-savvy kid in N7 – which, by the way, is our nickname for our class, because we’re in room 7 in the north-wing building of our school.

“Correct,” said Ms Tanaka. “The principal wants every class to write a blog about what we’re doing, every week this term. Ms Pedersen says it’ll go up on the school website, and people can write comments on it. So, there you are, Rebecca – you’ll be our blog reporter for the term.”

“You mean I have to write it every week?” I exclaimed. “Every week for the whole term?”

“Exactly,” retorted Ms Tanaka.

If you ask me, having to write a whole blog every week all term is a bit harsh for just one whisper, but I was smart enough not to say so – though I did try to get out of it. “Wouldn’t Ryan be better at that?” I countered. “Everyone knows he’s the class computer whiz. He’s absolutely the Bill Gates of N7!”

“Ryan may be very good with computers,” replied Ms Tanaka, “but you seem to be the best at passing on information, Rebecca.”

So, that was me – Rebecca Tan, N7’s first official blog reporter.





N7 blog Week 1

The most interesting thing that happened this week in N7 was that we had our first Phys Ed lesson for the term with Mr Kowalsky, our new Phys Ed teacher.

Mr Kowalsky told us we were going to learn to play soccer this term, and he asked if anyone had played soccer before. A couple of the boys had, but none of the girls had ever played soccer.

"Why soccer?" Liam Kennedy asked. "Hardly anyone plays soccer."

Mr Kowalsky explained that while it might be true that fewer people played soccer here currently, things were changing. Soccer, he assured us, is not only one of our fastest-growing sports, it's actually the most popular sport in the world, and played in more than 200 countries. He succeeded in convincing us all that soccer was *the* sport of the future.



Then, Liam wanted to know what the girls would play.

"Well, soccer, of course," responded Mr Kowalsky.

All the boys looked at each other. "Girls don't play soccer," they jeered.

"I think you'll find they do," Mr Kowalsky said.

The boys weren't about to back down. They protested loudly – "Not in our town, they don't" and "Junior soccer is just for boys here," – and then Liam pitched in with "Huh, girls wouldn't be any good anyway."

All the girls glared at him. What did he know?

Mr Kowalsky said, "Look it up for homework and find out if girls play soccer, and if they're any good."

