TALK ABOUT TEXTS

Playing to Win



Written by George Ivanoff
Illustrated by Patrick Hawkins

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For Review Only

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macmillan education

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Chapter 1

New Term, New Teacher



Josh felt nervous as he walked through the school gates. He looked at his best friend Misa beside him. "How could she be so calm?" he wondered.

Josh and Misa had been friends all their lives. Misa had always been the calm one. He felt better when she was around.

It was the first day of term, and they were about to meet their new teacher.

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"I wish Mrs Gertrude hadn't retired," said Misa.

Josh nodded. "I really liked her, and she was a great volleyball coach, too." He suddenly stopped. "I hope the new teacher is nice. What if she gives us lots of homework? What if she hates volleyball?"

Misa laughed. "You worry too much."

The new teacher stood smiling at her class.

"Do you think she looks familiar?" Misa whispered to Josh.

Josh shrugged. "Maybe."

"Good morning everyone," said the teacher. "My name is Ms West and I'm your new teacher."

Josh raised his hand. Ms West nodded at him.

"Are you going to coach the volleyball team?" asked Josh.

"I'm afraid not," she said. "I don't know anything about volleyball. But I do know about tennis because I used to play, so I will be coaching tennis at the court next door. We've got permission to use it twice a week at lunchtime. Maybe some of you will be interested in giving it a go."

Josh's face fell. No more volleyball!

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Chapter 2

Trying Tennis



"I'm not sure I want to do this," said Josh, as Misa led the way to the tennis court. "I've never really played before."

"Oh, come on," Misa encouraged him. "It'll be fun!"

And it was. Lots of kids showed up. No one was particularly good at tennis, but they all enjoyed spending their lunchtime at the court. Even Josh. It felt good every time he hit the ball over the net.

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A few days later, Josh and Misa went along to the second session. Again, it was lots of fun. Josh even started to improve. But he was a little disappointed that no one seemed to be taking it seriously.

"Volleyball was really fun," Josh said to Misa. "But the thing I liked about it most was that we had a team and a real competition to train for."



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"I've got an announcement," said Ms West, after the second session was over. "I've kept these first two sessions fun. But from next week, I'd like to start really working on skills and getting you all to improve your game. Then we can be a proper tennis squad."

Josh smiled at Misa. This was more like it.

"There's a local schools tennis competition near the end of term," she continued. "It's a doubles competition, which means people play in pairs. Maybe we could enter it. It would give us something to work and strive towards."

Josh and Misa were both excited now.

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