

Froggy Plays Soccer

by Jonathan London

Froggy and his friends are all excited for their soccer game. Even though Froggy makes a mistake that almost costs them the game, he learns some valuable lessons.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Soccer is a great source of fun exercise. What sport do you like to play?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how far Froggy can kick the ball?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Ask the children to try and remember as you read which animal crawled in the mitten first, second, and so on. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Froggy Plays Soccer*:

- shin guards: a protective covering, usually of leather or plastic and often padded, for the shins and some times the knees
- cleats: a pair of shoes with small projections on the soles used for playing sports on soft surfaces
- assistant coach: someone who helps a trainer of sports players and athletes
- late: happening or arriving after an expected or arranged time
- goalie: a player whose chief duty is to prevent the ball or puck from crossing or entering the goal
- team: a group of people forming one side in a sports competition
- dream: a sequence of images that appear involuntarily to the mind of somebody who is sleeping, often a mixture of real and imaginary characters, places, and events
- cartwheels: an acrobatic movement in which the body is turned sideways onto the hands, then over onto the feet again
- trapped: a situation from which it is difficult to escape and in which somebody feels confined, restricted, or in somebody else's power
- slammed: to close something forcefully and noisily, or be closed in this way
- charged: to make an onset; rush, as to an attack
- defense: the protection of something, especially from attack by an enemy
- lead: to show the way to others, usually by going ahead of them
- whistle: a device or instrument that produces a shrill or musical sound when air or breath is forced through it

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Rare Words in *Froggy Plays Soccer* continued:

- stampeding: a sudden rush of many people all doing or wanting to do something at the same time
- unguarded: exposed to attack or capture by the opponent without recourse by the player
- penalty: something unpleasant suffered as the result of an unwise action
- forward (soccer): a player stationed in advance of others on a team
- tied (score): to make or be the same score
- minute: a period of 60 seconds
- power-kick: to kick hard
- bounced: a springing away from a surface after hitting it

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why couldn't Froggy sleep?
- What happened if Froggy's soccer team beat the Wild Things?
- What did Froggy do to get dressed?
- Who was the team's assistant coach?
- What are the rules of soccer according to Froggy's dad?
- Who was the team's coach? What did they call their team?
- What did Froggy do while he was supposed to be playing soccer?
- Who made the first goal against the Dream Team?
- What was Froggy great at?
- What happened when the second half started?
- Who did Froggy leap-frog over to get to the ball?
- How did Froggy stop the ball when the Wild Things' forward tried to score?
- What happens when you catch the ball?
- What did Froggy do to keep from touching the ball?

Do

Soccer Game

You will need: a soccer ball, soccer nets and an outside area to play

After reading the story, discuss the rule the Froggy kept forgetting while he played soccer. You can't use your hands! Say the soccer chant with the kids. "Head it, Boot it, Knee it, Shoot it, but don't use your hands!" Let the children practice kicking the ball into the goal and passing the ball between each other. Next, split your children into two teams. Pick a goalie for each team and the rest will be regular players. Allow the children enough time to play soccer.