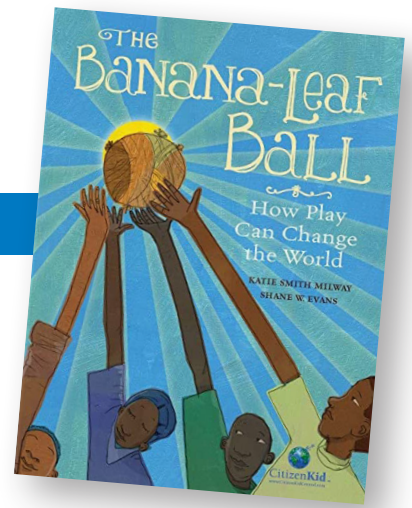


The Banana-Leaf Ball

How Play Can Change the World



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Community, Resilience, Teamwork

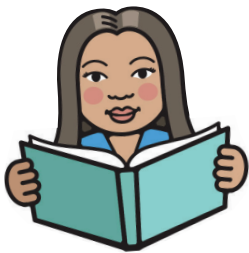
Book Brief: When his village is attacked, Deo finds himself separated from his family and in a refugee camp. He longs to find a way to get back to playing soccer and soon finds a team, an unlikely friendship, and a sense of hope.

Author:
Katie Smith Milway

Illustrator:
Shane W. Evans

Content Connections:
Science, Social Studies

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Read the title and subtitle. Ask students to think about the symbols in the cover art: Why are the kids holding the ball up to the sun? Why are the kids all wearing shirts of a different color?

Prior Knowledge: Ask your students to think about any teams they have been on. Have them complete a short anticipation guide by having them agree or disagree with the following

statements, both before and after the reading:

1. Teams are only fun if you win.
2. People on a good team always get along with each other.

Content Specific Vocabulary: refugee, dribble, scrimmage

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about the story's beginning, middle, and end. Specifically, think about how the main character's situation changes over time."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING FOR COMPREHENSION

- Why does Deo have to flee his family farm?
- What does a good day at the refugee camp look like?
- How do people treat each other at the refugee camp?
- What was Deo making with banana leaves?
- How does Deo get to play soccer again?
- How does playing soccer together change the relationship between Deo and Remy?
- Where did Deo go when he left the refugee camp at the end of the story?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Stories always have a beginning, middle, and end. Ask students to retell the story by identifying its beginning, middle, and end using the sentence starters "In the beginning...", "In the middle...", and "In the end...". Then ask them to share how the main character changed throughout the story.

Extending Our Thinking: Sometimes our personal stories change very quickly? Ask students to explain

a time in their lives when things changed quickly, for example, a new friendship formed or they moved from one home to another.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- Extension Activities for Educators are also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding sheet also available.