



# The Keeper of the Ball

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Determination, Creativity, Teamwork

**Book Brief:** The big kids wouldn't let Edson play in their football team- so he started his own!

**Author:**  
Storytime

**Illustrator:**  
Patrick Camelo

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and have students notice details about Edson's town, his friends, and their soccer equipment.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, "Have you ever wanted to join a game or team but weren't allowed? How did you feel, and what did you do?"

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, think about how Edson and his friends used creativity, teamwork, and determination to make their dream come true."

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- What was life like in Edson's town without electricity?
- Why wouldn't the older kids let Edson and his friends join their games? How did that make them feel?
- How was the team successful by the end of the story?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** "How does Edson's story inspire us to be creative and determined, even when others doubt us or leave us out?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** Have students work in small groups to create their own "homemade soccer ball" using simple materials (e.g., crumpled paper, tape, plastic bags, string). After making the balls, they can name their team and design a mini paper uniform logo, just like Edson's team did. Wrap up the activity with a short game using the homemade balls, and then discuss what was challenging, how teamwork helped, and how creating their own gear made them feel like part of a real team.

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- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.