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**Billie B. Brown: The Soccer Star**

**By Sally Rippin**

**Illustrated by Aki Fukuoka**

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will:

- Engage with the characters.
- Discuss gender stereotyping.
- Experiment with speech bubbles.
- Explore a variety of emotions.

**About the Story:**

When Billie hears that one of the soccer teams needs an extra player, she can't wait to play! But when Billie finds out that she's not allowed to play because she is a girl, she is really cross. It is the silliest thing that Billie has ever heard! But Billie doesn't stay cross for very long. Instead, with the help of her best friend Jack, Billie comes up with an idea that will show the boys that girls can play soccer too!

**Before You Read the Story:**

Read the back-cover blurb aloud to the class and ask students: What do you think about the statement that girls can't play soccer? I

Now turn to the front cover and read the title of the story to students. Ask: do you think the title and the picture of Billie give us a clue about how this story will end?

**Questions and Activities:**

*Chapter One*

- What does Billie say when Sam tells her girls can't play soccer? Is this how she really feels? If not, why do you think Billie responded this way?
- What does Jack think about Billie's response to Sam? Does Jack think that Billie would be good at playing soccer?
- Explain why you think Billie feels sad during this part of the story.

Activity: Imagine that you are Billie. How would you respond to Sam's comments about girls not playing soccer? Draw a picture of Billie and write her new response to Sam in a speech bubble.

*Chapter Two*

- Why is Billie cross with Jack?
- Billie scrunches up her face and her hands. Why does Billie do this?
- What advice do Ella and Tracey have for Billie? Do you agree?

Activity: Imagine that you are Billie. Write a diary entry describing what has happened in the story so far. As part of the entry, don't forget to include reasons for some of the feelings that Billie has had (cross, sad, shy and jumbled up).



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*Chapter Three*

- What does Billie feel nervous about?
- What is Billie so worried about? How does she feel after speaking to Jack?
- Billie has a super-doooper idea. Can you predict what it is?

Activity: Billie was very brave to tell Jack the truth about how she felt. Design a bravery award for Billie. Don't forget to include a short sentence explaining how Billie showed bravery. Now think about a time when you were brave. Design a bravery award for yourself that also includes a sentence about how you showed bravery.

*Chapter Four*

- When Jack answers Sam's question about playing soccer at lunchtime, Jack and Billie smile at each other. What does this tell the reader?
- Looking at the illustration on pages 36 and 37, do you notice anything important?
- Why Does Jack look so happy after his team lost the soccer match?
- What do you think of Billie's idea to prove that girls can play soccer?

Activity: Imagine that you are on a soccer team with Billie and Jack. Design a uniform for your team to wear. Don't forget to include the name of your team on the back of your top.

*Teacher Tips adapted from Hardie Grant Egmont.*