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Hey Jack: The Winning Goal

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Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Explore moods.
- Research a topic.
- Give an oral presentation of the topic of team sports.

About the Story:

Jack is excited about his first day at soccer. Dressed in his new team uniform, Jack is ready to put all of his practice into play and kick some winning goals! After all, kicking goals is what Jack does best. So when the coach nominates Jack as the goalie, Jack is really disappointed and spends much of the game wishing he was on the other end of the field. In fact, Jack is so focused on the position he wants to play that he forgets about the position he is playing and before he knows it, the other team have scored a goal. Jack's team mates are annoyed and Jack is upset with himself for letting such an easy goal get past him. Determined to focus on the game, Jack turns his attitude and his game around and learns a lesson about the importance of team work over individual glory.

Before You Read the Story:

Read the title of the book aloud. Ask students to predict what sport Jack plays and survey the group to establish whether any students have played or watched this sport before. Ask students to describe what it must feel like to kick a winning goal. Now turn to the back cover and read the blurb aloud. Assist students to define the word "glory." Invite students to predict how Jack feels about being appointed the goalie. Ask students whether they think Jack's feelings should have been an important consideration when choosing positions for the game or not.

Questions and Activities:

Chapter One

- How does Jack feel on his first day of soccer?
- What is Jack's strongest soccer skill? What does he hope to do in today's match?
- "I think I'll make you our goalie." Why is Jack so disappointed when he hears this?

Activity: Refer to the picture of Jack at the beginning of the chapter. Ask students to comment on and find similarities between the way Jack feels when he is in a bouncy mood and the way they feel. List some moods on the board for students to discuss. This list may include moods such as: angry, bored, cheerful, confused, crazy, energetic, jealous, lonely, naughty, relaxed, surprised and uncomfortable. Ask students to nominate a mood they can describe in the most detail and create a labeled illustration of themselves in that mood.

Chapter Two

- How does Jack describe his disappointment at being appointed goalie? Can you think of another creative way of describing the feeling of being disappointed?



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- Jack lets the other team score a goal. How does this happen? How do Jack's team mates respond?
 - Jack feels like crying after his mistake on the field but promises himself he won't. Why? Write about a time you have felt like crying in front of your friends or classmates.

Activity: As a group, find out about the game of soccer, focusing on the basic rules and positions of the game. At the conclusion of this research, hold a class soccer match and invite another class to watch and cheer the teams on.

Chapter Three

- "Jack's team mates go wild." In your own words, describe what happens to cause this reaction among Jack's team mates.
- What advice does Jack give Jem? How did Jack come up with this advice? Does it work?
- Why is Jack looking forward to next week's match?

Activity: Invite students to share their experiences of playing team sports. Encourage students to comment on how it feels to belong to a team, the good and bad aspects of playing a team sport and whether they prefer team sports over individual sporting pursuits. Have students bring in photos of themselves involved in their team sport and share some of their positive experiences.

Teacher Tips adapted from Hardie Grant Egmont.