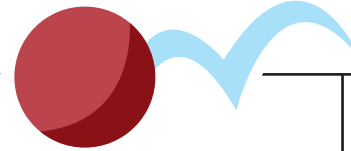


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Reading Comprehension: The Runaway Ball

**Directions:** Read the story below. Then answer the questions.



## The Runaway Ball

"Tied game!" Mike shouted to his friends. "It's 3-3!"

Mike's kickball team played kickball in the neighborhood every Friday night. The game was held on a street that ended in a big hill. Not many cars traveled on this street, so it was perfect for the kids to play their game.

The pitcher rolled the ball to Mike. He patiently waited for the perfect moment to strike. The ball bounced slowly in his direction until it was finally in the right spot. Mike pulled back his leg and kicked as hard as he could. The ball flew high in the air. The kids on the other team watched as the ball sailed over their heads.

Mike sprinted to first base. He watched as the other team's players tried to chase the ball. He rounded first, passed second base, flew past third base, and reached home plate. Mike grinned and jumped up and down, but he stopped short and looked around. No one else, not even his team, was cheering for him. What was going on?

Then, Mike noticed that all the kids were running down the hill. They were chasing Mike's fly ball that turned into a homerun. He quickly joined his friends as they tried to retrieve the ball.

"This stinks," April said. "The ball went down the sewer and we can't reach it. I guess this means our game is over and we all have to go home."

The kids brainstormed and tried to solve their problem. Each player reached an arm down into the sewer to see if the ball could be reached. No one had any luck, though. Sandy went to get a baseball bat from her house, but that didn't help. Jerry and Denise got a broom and a mop from their house, but neither tool worked.

Just then, an older neighbor came outside. He noticed that the kids were trying to solve the problem of getting the ball out of the sewer. He walked up to the kids and asked if they needed help. The kids had never spoken to him before because he mostly stayed in his house.

The old man went into his garage. He returned to the sewer with a garden tool that had a long handle. He handed the tool over to Mike.

"Well, son," he said. "It looks like you're the right person for the job. You kicked this ball, so you need to bring it back."

Mike got down on all fours. He was able to reach the ball. He carefully moved the tool and the ball at the same time until it was back in his hands. Success!

"Thank you so much, sir," Mike said to the old man. "You really saved the day!"

1. **Who** kicked the ball that went down the hill into the sewer?
2. **What** household items did not work as the kids tried to retrieve the kickball?
3. **When** did the kids play kickball each week?
4. **Where** was the kickball game played?
5. **Why** was Mike responsible for getting the ball out of the sewer?
6. **How** did Mike feel after he scored a homerun for his team?