

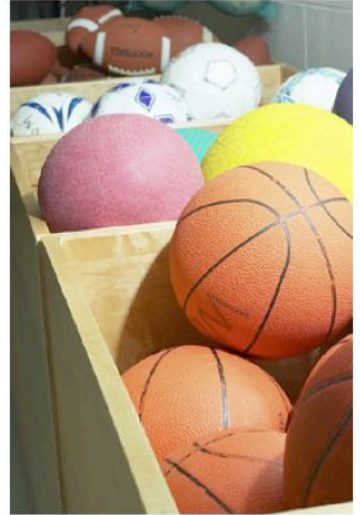
Pick Me!

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Eddie really liked to play dodgeball. He was not the tallest kid, and he was not the biggest kid. He was not the fastest kid, and he was not the slowest kid. He was the kid with the best hands.

When his classmates chose teammates for dodgeball, they liked to pick the fast kids first, because they were good at dodging. Then they would pick the kids with the strong arms, because they were good at getting people out when they threw a ball. Everyone else came after that.

Eddie usually got picked last, and it made him sad. Maybe if he was taller or faster, it would have helped. He couldn't help that, but he could do his best. He would have to show them that his talents made for a good team.



When the game started, the fast kids ran forward and grabbed the balls first. They threw them, and several people on each team were eliminated. Then, the strong arms came in handy. The boys with the best arms could whiz the dodgeballs across the court. It stung if one of them hit you.

Some of the big kids went down first. They made easy targets. The fast kids fell eventually, too. That left Eddie standing alone on the court for his team, holding a red rubber ball. He smiled, even though his teammates groaned to see him facing four enemies on his own. "Not Eddie." They whined, thinking he was useless, but he would show them.

When one of the strong arms on the other team threw a ball, he deflected it with his own and tagged him out with his ball. Now there were only three left on the other team. The odds were more even now.

He got another ball and approached the center line. A fast kid charged at him, throwing the ball low. Eddie dropped his own ball and caught the other kid's ball. The fast kid was out, and he got one of his teammates back. "John, you're in!" Eddie shouted over his shoulder.

Everyone watched in surprise. Now it was two-on-two. Eddie and John each got a ball, sighted in the slow kid on the other team and fired. Eddie missed, but his shot led the other player right into John's shot. Now it was two-to-one.

It didn't take long to finish off the last kid. Eddie was a hero. His team rushed in to cheer for him. They wouldn't be picking him last anymore.

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What sport are the students playing?
 - A. volleyball
 - B. dodgeball
 - C. kickball
 - D. soccer

2. Eddie is what kind of player?
 - A. the fastest player
 - B. a strong arm player
 - C. the player with the best hands
 - D. a good dodger

3. When does Eddie get picked in the game?
 - A. First
 - B. Second
 - C. Third
 - D. Last

4. When Eddie catches a ball, who does he call in?
 - A. Peter
 - B. John
 - C. Larry
 - D. Eric

5. How do people feel about Eddie after the game?
 - A. They think he's awful.
 - B. They respect him more.
 - C. They think he's just okay.
 - D. They wish he wasn't on their team.

Pick Me! – Answer Key

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