

# Favorite Sports

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

“What’s your favorite sport, Nick?” Ms. Rodgers asked.

Nick thought for a moment. Everyone in the class was looking at him. He was nervous. He needed a good answer. “I like soccer.”

Everyone smiled. A few people said, “I like soccer, too!”

That was a safe answer. Nick really liked Ice Hockey, but no one else in class liked it. He wished he could be honest, but he worried about what they would say. They would say things like, “Ice Hockey? Why?” or “What is that?” They didn’t know about it.

Nick came from Maryland. Up North, all the kids liked hockey. Down in Florida, kids loved soccer. He didn’t really understand why they didn’t like hockey.

He asked his dad when he got home. “Why don’t the kids here like ice hockey?”

His dad smiled. “Their families grew up watching soccer. They like soccer. We grew up watching hockey, so we like hockey.”

“They are so similar.”

“You’re right. They both have goalies. They both have nets. The scoring and penalties are nearly the same, too.”

“Hockey is inside in a cool arena. Soccer is hot and sweaty.” Nick sighed.

“Why don’t you invite a couple kids to the next game?” Dad suggested. “We will take them with us.”

Nick did that. He asked his friends Dave and Tommy. They did not know about ice hockey. They had never been to a game before. They were excited to see.

At the game, they had hot dogs and soda. They watched the game. Dave and Tommy asked Nick many questions about the rules and the teams. They watched with great interest. All of them had fun.

The next time at school when Ms. Rodgers asked Nick what his favorite sport was, he said, “Ice hockey.”

Dave and Tommy grinned and said, “We like hockey, too!”

Nick was happy. He liked it when other people liked the things he liked. It made him feel like he had friends who understood him.



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

1. Why does Nick not tell the truth about his favorite sport?
  - A. He doesn't want people to not like his answer.
  - B. He hates sports.
  - C. He doesn't have a favorite sport.
  - D. He doesn't remember which sport is his favorite.
  
2. What is Nick's real favorite sport?
  - A. Baseball
  - B. Basketball
  - C. Soccer
  - D. Ice Hockey
  
3. What does Nick's dad suggest?
  - A. Pretend to like soccer
  - B. Learn to like soccer more.
  - C. Bring some friends to a game.
  - D. Ignore his friends.
  
4. Do Tommy and Dave enjoy the ice hockey game?
  - A. No
  - B. Yes
  
5. TRUE OR FALSE: The next time Ms. Rodgers asked Nick what his favorite sport is, he tells the truth.
  - A. True
  - B. False

## Favorite Sports – Answer Key

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

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