

Tennis Time for Teddy

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Teddy was a small fast duck who always wanted to learn to play tennis. He saw all of his duck friends play in the park near the pond where he would swim. Teddy asked several of the ducks at the pond if they would teach h to play tennis. Some of the ducks laughed at Teddy. "How can you not know how to play?" asked Roger. Mandy said, "It would take too long to teach you!"

Teddy felt lonely, sad, and most of all, left out of all the fun the ducks were having while playing tennis. One day, Teddy decided to borrow a tennis racket and a tennis ball from the park director, Daniel. Daniel said to Teddy, "It's going to be hard to play tennis by yourself." "Let me help you learn." "Wow, that would be great!" exclaimed Teddy.

That afternoon, Teddy learned how to serve the ball and how to hold the tennis racket. Soon Teddy was playing like he played all his life. Mandy and Roger watched and realized that Teddy was learning the game, and he was really good at it. Mandy challenged Teddy to a match. "I know I'll beat him," Mandy said to Roger. "I've been playing so much longer than Teddy."

The next day, Mandy and Teddy had their big match. The other ducks were all there cheering on mostly Mandy. Teddy felt a little nervous but told himself he could do it. *Concentrate* he told himself. *Remember everything Daniel taught you* he thought. Sure enough, Teddy beat Mandy. Mandy was shocked! She thought for sure she would beat Teddy.

After that day, many of the ducks wanted to play tennis with Teddy. But Teddy felt since they didn't want to teach or help him, he didn't really want to play the game with them. Teddy thought they only wanted to be his partner because he won the tennis match. Teddy felt the other ducks weren't true friends.

Teddy decided to move on to another park and pond and met new ducks that liked him for himself, not because he could win a tennis match. Teddy never forgot Daniel Duck and how nice he was to him. They still get together to play tennis.



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

1. How would you describe Teddy?
 - A. Small and fast
 - B. Big and clumsy
 - C. Small and fat
 - D. None of the above

2. What sport did Teddy want to learn to play?
 - A. Basketball
 - B. Soccer
 - C. Tennis
 - D. Hockey

3. Who was the park director?
 - A. David
 - B. Donald
 - C. Dylan
 - D. Daniel

4. How did Teddy feel at the beginning of his big match with Mandy?
 - A. Excited
 - B. Nervous
 - C. Sad
 - D. None of the above

5. What do you think the message of the story is?
 - A. We should be kind and help out when we can.
 - B. We should be mean to people and not help them.
 - C. Playing tennis is great exercise.
 - D. Learning to play a sport is hard work.

Tennis Time for Teddy – Answer Key

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