The Tryout

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 195 words | Theme

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Idris had practiced all summer for the soccer tryouts. He wanted to be a **striker,** the player who scores goals. But on tryout day, his shots kept flying over the net, and his legs felt like jelly. When Coach Patel read the list of players, Idris's name was not on it.

2 He walked home slowly, kicking a stone. "Maybe I'm just not good at soccer," he told his dad. Dad thought for a moment. "Or maybe you haven't found your spot yet. At tryouts, you stopped three balls that were headed into the net. That was the best thing anyone did all day."

3 Idris had not even noticed. The next morning he asked Coach Patel if he could try out as a goalkeeper. Coach agreed to watch him at practice. Idris **dove,** caught and blocked shot after shot, his gloves slapping the ball away from the goal.

4 Two weeks later, Coach Patel added one more name to the team list: Idris, goalkeeper. At the first game, Idris saved a **penalty** kick, and his teammates cheered his name. He had not become the player he planned to be. He had become the player the team needed.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Tryout: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the story to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why was Idris not picked at first?

(a) he forgot his gloves (b) he was late (c) his shots missed the net

2. What had Dad noticed?

(a) Idris was tired (b) Idris scored a goal (c) Idris blocked three balls

3. What is the theme of the story?

(a) strikers are the best (b) find what you are good at (c) never give up soccer

2 Put the events in order. Write 1, 2, 3, 4.

- [ ] Idris tried out as a striker.
- [ ] Idris tried out as a goalkeeper.
- [ ] Idris talked with his dad.
- [ ] Idris saved a penalty kick.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Tryout: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

striker	○	○ a free kick given after a foul
dove	○	○ the player whose job is to score goals
penalty	○	○ jumped forward with arms out

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What does the last line mean: "He had become the player the team needed"?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Tryout

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) his shots missed the net
2. c) Idris blocked three balls
3. b) find what you are good at

2 Order of events

Numbers as printed, top to bottom: 1, 3, 2, 4

1. Idris tried out as a striker.
2. Idris talked with his dad.
3. Idris tried out as a goalkeeper.
4. Idris saved a penalty kick.

3 Word meanings

striker: the player whose job is to score goals

dove: jumped forward with arms out

penalty: a free kick given after a foul

4 Written answer (sample)

Idris did not become a striker, but he found a job he was great at, and it helped his team.

Scan for more free practice