

Before You Read



Think Answer the questions.

- 1 What games can you play with a ball?
- 2 What traditional games do you play in your country?
- 3 What games do you like to play with your whole family?



Learn Main Idea

The **main idea** of a reading tells us what the reading is about. The main idea is usually in the first sentence of a paragraph.

Read each text. Underline the main idea in each.

1

Jumping rope is fun! One person can jump alone with a short rope. If you have a long rope, two people can swing the rope, and one person can jump inside. If the rope is even longer, more people can jump together!

2

Swimming is very good for you. That's why Nicole likes to do it. She swims with her team every Saturday. She likes to race the other people. Swimming will keep her strong. It's fun, too!

3

Wendy likes her tennis lessons. They are very close to her house, so she can walk there from home. Wendy's tennis instructor, Miss Taylor, is very kind and helpful. Wendy loves to practice with her friends.

E

Words in Context Scan the story on pages 18–19 and circle these words. As you read, try to guess what they mean.

boa constrictor toss landing balance

F

Answer the question before you read.

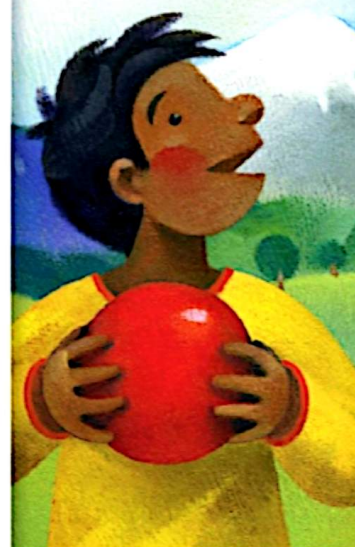
Why are games often more fun when you play with other people?

The Red Rubber Ball

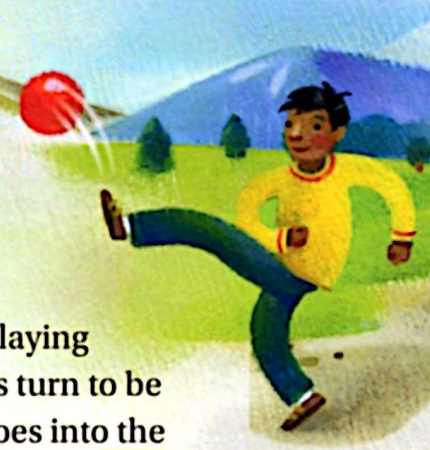
In this *story*, a boy's red rubber ball travels around the world. We learn about having fun in different countries. As you read, remember to look for the main ideas.



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The Red Rubber Ball



High up on Antuco Mountain, Carlos kicks his red rubber ball so hard that it flies high in the sky like a shooting star.



Far across the world, Ashanti is playing Da Ga with her friends. It's Ashanti's turn to be Da Ga, the boa constrictor, so she goes into the center of the circle. Her friends dance and skip around her while she acts like a snake and tries to tag the next Da Ga. It's fun to catch them. Ashanti is tagging a friend when something red drops out of the sky into the circle. Where did this come from? There is no ball in Da Ga!

Ashanti laughs. She bounces the ball as hard as she can. It flies high and fast across the sky until she can't see it anymore. It flies over a forest, white cliffs, and a big blue ocean.



Far away, Hyo and his brother are playing Omok. Hyo plays with little dark pebbles, and his brother plays with little white ones. Hyo tries to line up five of his stones to win. Winning isn't easy. Hyo is finding the perfect place to put his stone when something red rolls into the middle of the game. What's this? You don't need a ball to play Omok!

Think What's the main idea of this paragraph?



Hyo smiles. Then he throws the ball as hard as he can. It flies far into the sky, over plains and seas.

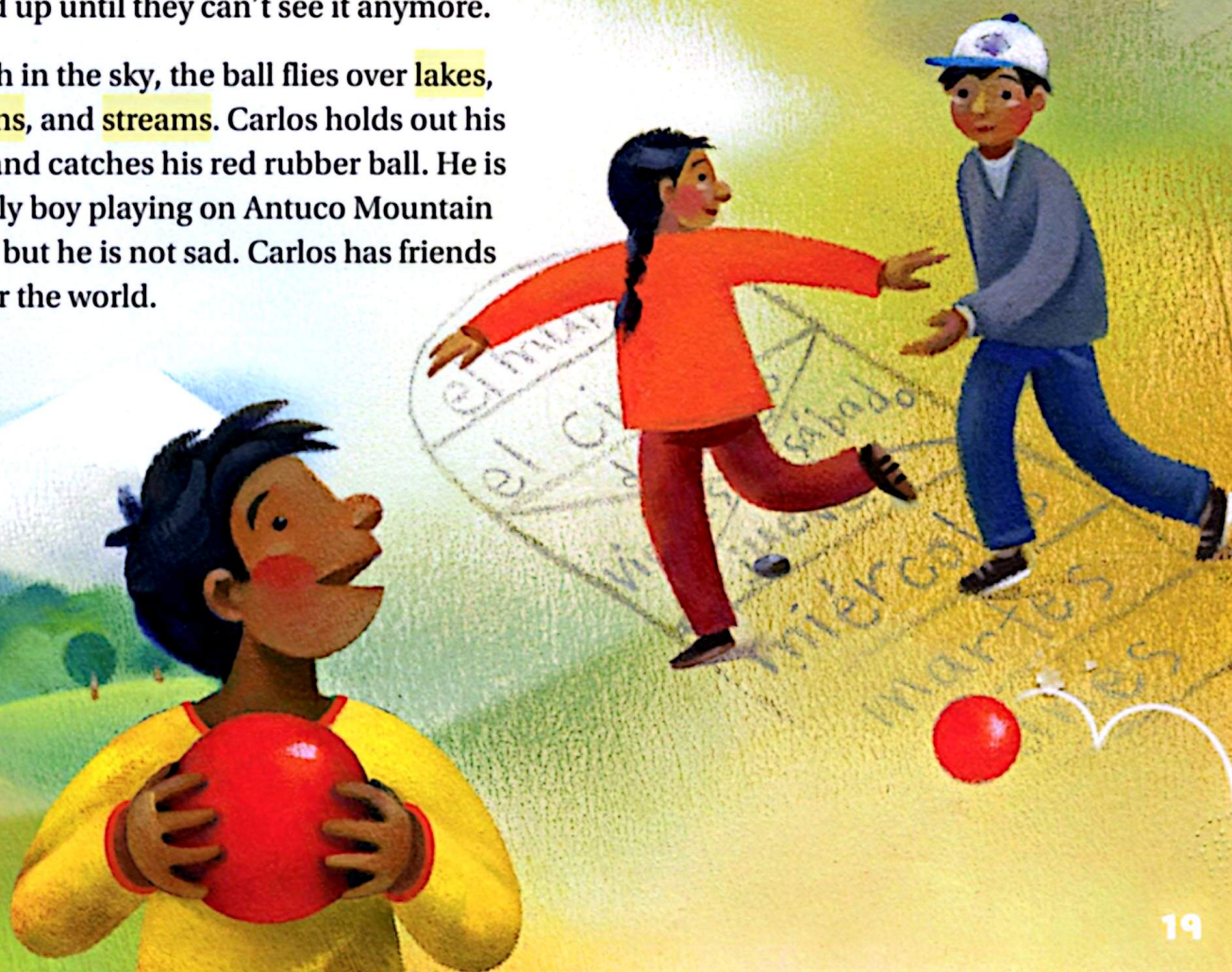
The Fernandez family is playing La Thunkuna. Papa draws boxes in the sand. Mama writes names in the boxes, one for each day of the week. Matias tosses a stone, and Maria jumps over it. She lands in the next box without stepping on the line. Maria likes landing on one foot, and she puts her arms out to keep her balance. Something round bounces on her foot. Hey! What's this? There is no ball in this game!

Everyone laughs. Maria tosses the ball in the air, and Matias kicks it up into the sky. The whole family watches as the ball goes up and up until they can't see it anymore.

High in the sky, the ball flies over lakes, canyons, and streams. Carlos holds out his arms and catches his red rubber ball. He is the only boy playing on Antuco Mountain today, but he is not sad. Carlos has friends all over the world.



Think What's the main idea of this paragraph?



A Read the story. What does the writer do for fun?

B Read the story again. What's the main idea in the story? Remember, the main idea tells us what the reading is about.

Playing Footbag for Fun

I live in Colombia, in a small town near Medellín. My town is in the Andes Mountains, about 1,500 meters above sea level. Around my town, there are large **plains**, deep **canyons**, and wide valleys.

What do I do for fun? I play footbag. A footbag is a soft bag filled with plastic beads. Today, I'm playing footbag with my friends in the park. We're playing next to a **lake**.

Here's how you play. Today, it's my turn to start. I **kick** the bag in the air and pass it to Manuel. We all take turns kicking the bag. We're careful not to **drop** it. Footbags aren't like balls. When they fall, they don't **bounce**.

Think
Main Idea: I play footbag for fun.



There are different ways to play footbag. The most popular is called "circle kicking." That's what my friends and I play. We stand in a circle and take turns kicking the footbag. It isn't easy, because the footbag can only touch your body below the knee. You have to pass the footbag to the next person in the circle, but it can't touch the ground.

Some of the older kids play "freestyle footbag." That's really hard, and you have to learn to do tricks.

For now, I enjoy playing footbag with my friends. But one day, I want to learn to do tricks.

Think What's the main idea of this section?