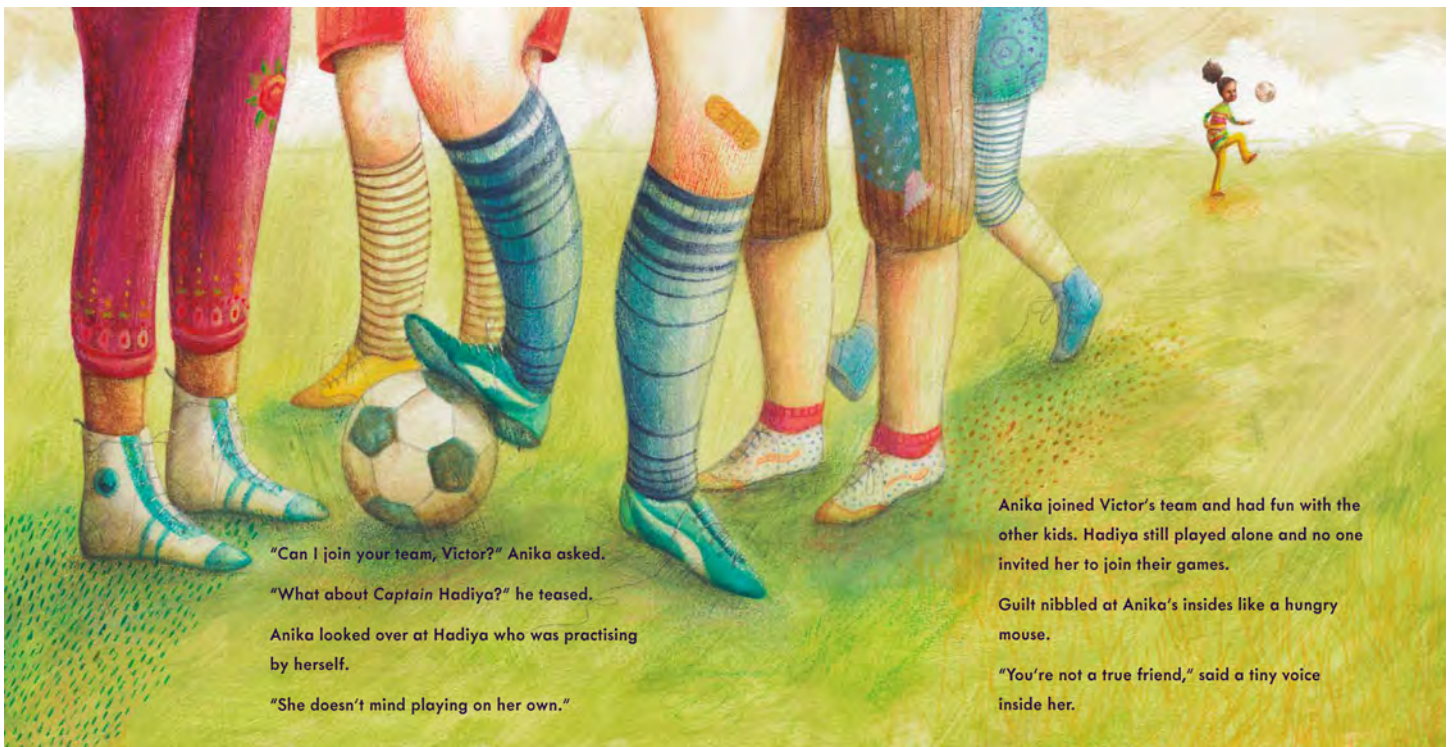


Direct Speech

Grammar

THE RULES

1. Words that are spoken should be enclosed in speech marks: "How are you today?"
2. Every time a new speaker begins talking, you should start a new paragraph:
"How are you today?"
"Not too bad, thanks."
3. A comma, full stop, question mark or exclamation mark should mark the end of a piece of speech and should be placed inside the speech marks: "Help me!"
4. If direct speech comes after the information about who is speaking, a comma should be placed before the first set of speech marks to introduce the speech: Sita said, "It's very cold today."
5. If direct speech is broken up by information about who is speaking, you will need to use a comma, exclamation mark or question mark at the end of the first piece of speech and a full stop or comma before the second piece of speech (before you open your speech marks): "It's very cold," Sita said, "and my toes are turning blue."



"Can I join your team, Victor?" Anika asked.

"What about Captain Hadiya?" he teased.

Anika looked over at Hadiya who was practising by herself.

"She doesn't mind playing on her own."

Anika joined Victor's team and had fun with the other kids. Hadiya still played alone and no one invited her to join their games.

Guilt nibbled at Anika's insides like a hungry mouse.

"You're not a true friend," said a tiny voice inside her.

Direct Speech Tasks

- 1) Can you label examples of any of these rules where they are followed in the text on this page of *Looking for Lord Ganesh*? You may want to refer to the book if the text is too small here.
- 2) Re-write this conversation between the children, imagining that they are talking about an upcoming sports match that will take place the following week.
- 3) If you want to challenge yourself, see if you can start each line of the conversation with a different letter of the alphabet, going through the letters in order. Look at the example below to help you.
- 4) See if you can write out all the rules of direct speech from memory. Once you have finished, check the rule box and add anything you missed in a different colour pen. Hide your work and the rule box and try again, repeating this until you have remembered all of the important rules.

ABC Dialogue

Another match to prepare for," said Victor.

But that's a good thing," replied Kayla.

Can I play centre?" asked Brian.