Finders Keepers

When Keegan saw the brand new soccer ball in the backyard, he was sure his dad had put it there as a surprise.

"Thanks, Dad!" he yelled, opening the sliding glass door. "My old one was looking pretty beat up."

"Huh?" Dad said, following Keegan outside. "I didn’t get you that ball."

"Maybe Mom did?"

"Nope. I bet that ball belongs to one of the neighbors."

"But no one has kids," Keegan argued.

"Maybe the new people do. A family just moved into the house behind us." Keegan clutched the ball. "Finders, keepers, losers, weepers."

"How would you feel if someone took your soccer ball?" asked Dad.

"Great," Keegan said. "Then I could get a new one."

"There are better ways of getting a new ball than taking someone else’s," said Dad.

Just then Keegan heard someone open the back door of the house behind them. Dad walked to the back fence. He *peered* through the gap between the boards.

"Hi. I’m Mr. Mitchell. Welcome to the neighborhood. Did you lose a new soccer ball?"

"I sure did," said a girl’s voice. "My little sister was playing with it. When I asked where it was she just said ‘gone.’ She’s three and not much help."

"My son Keegan found it," said Dad. "He’ll toss it back to you."

Keegan did not want to give the ball back. He hadn’t even had a chance to kick it yet.

"Just a sec. I’m going to grab a pail to stand on," said the girl. In a few moments, the girl’s head appeared over the top of the fence. She smiled at Keegan. "Hi. I’m Lani."

Keegan head-butted the ball over the fence. He did not smile back.

"Wow, great move!" said Lani, catching the ball. "Do you play soccer?"

"I’m on a rec team called the Ravens," said Keegan.

"Me too. My mom just signed me up yesterday. I’m kind of nervous for my first practice. What do you play? I’m a goalie. At least, I’d like to be a goalie."

Keegan hated playing goalie, but he had to fill in when Skylar needed a break. Coach Hughes would be glad to have another goalie. So would Keegan.

"I play striker," said Keegan.

"Would you like to come over and kick the ball around before practice?" invited Lani.

"Can I Dad?" asked Keegan.

Dad nodded. "Just be back by three."

"But practice doesn’t start until four," said Keegan.

"I know," Dad winked. "But we’re stopping by the sports store on the way to pick out a new soccer ball."
### Monday

**Before you read, make a prediction about this story based on the title.**

Using a timer, see how long it takes you to read the entire text. Record your time below. Ask someone for help.

_____ minutes _____ seconds

**Who are the characters in the story?**

**Where does the story take place?**

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### Tuesday

When Keegan first saw the new soccer ball in his backyard, where did he think it came from?

At the beginning of the story, where does Keegan’s dad think the ball came from?

**What does Keegan mean when he says, “Finder, keepers, losers, weepers.”?**

**Why did Keegan say he would be happy if someone took his soccer ball?**

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### Wednesday

Who did the soccer ball belong to?

Who was responsible for losing the soccer ball?

What did Keegan do to send the ball back over the fence to Lani?

What is the name of Keegan’s soccer team?

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### Thursday

Using a timer, see how long it takes you to read the entire story. Record your time below. Did your time improve?

_____ minutes _____ seconds

How does Lani feel about her first soccer practice?

Why was Keegan glad to have another goalie on the team?

Besides getting a new soccer ball, what else did Keegan gain in this story?

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