

Read the story. Then answer the questions.



The Goal

Jack loved soccer, but he was not a very good soccer player. No one on his team liked to pass the ball to him because he almost always missed it. He couldn't bounce a soccer ball on his knees. Once he tried to bounce it off of his head, but his aim was off, and he ended up with a bloody nose. If I could just score one goal, he thought to himself every night before he went to sleep, then I would know I really am a decent soccer player. I wouldn't mind making all these mistakes, if I could just score one goal.

One Saturday, his team was playing a game against a team they had never played before. Since no one ever passed Jack the ball, he had a lot of time to watch the other players. The goalie on the other team missed the ball a lot. Jack's team scored goal after goal. This is my chance to score a goal, thought Jack. I have a good chance against that goalie.

When Jack got ahold of the ball, he dribbled it down toward the goal. He was so close to the goal he could hear the goalie breathing hard. He could see his sweat. He could see the stress in his eyes. Then he heard the goalie say, under his breath, "I wouldn't mind making all of these mistakes, if I could just stop one goal today. Just one goal!" Jack only hesitated a moment. Then he kicked with all his might.

1. What is Jack's problem in the story?

2. What does Jack have in common with the goalie?