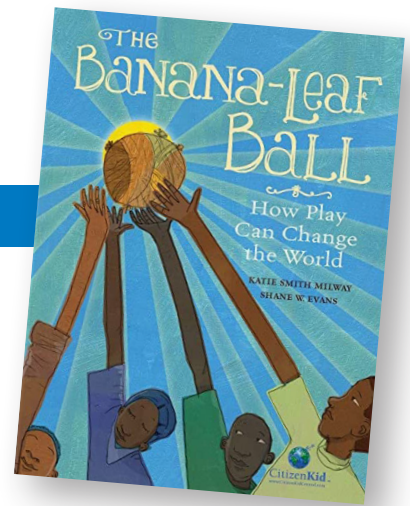


The Banana-Leaf Ball

How Play Can Change the World



A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Themes: Community, Resilience, Teamwork

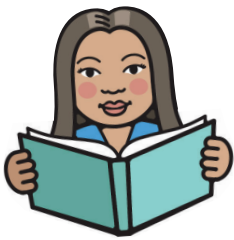
Grade Level: 3rd to 7th grade

Book Brief: When his village is attacked, Deo finds himself separated from his family and in a refugee camp. He longs to find a way to get back to playing soccer and soon finds a team, an unlikely friendship, and a sense of hope.

Author:
Katie Smith Milway

Illustrator:
Shane W. Evans

TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Does your child have a favorite sport or hobby? Talk about what they could do if the equipment they have for it was not available (e.g., substitute the banana-leaf ball for a soccer ball or sticks and a pot for a drum set).

While reading, make inferences: On most pages, the main character is clearly drawn in a blue shirt. Use the text and Deo's facial expressions to figure out with your child what he is probably feeling and thinking.

After reading, ask questions:

- How did Deo survive without his family after they were separated?
- What was good about the refugee camp and what was not so good?
- How did playing soccer with other kids change Deo's world?
- The subtitle of this book is "How Play Can Change the World." How do you think play can change the world?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

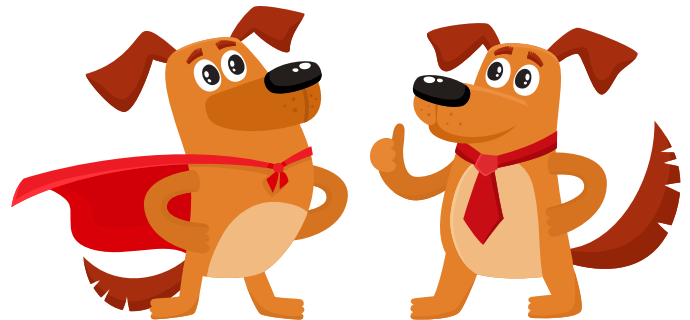
HOW CAN PLAY CHANGE YOUR WORLD?

Pick a game that fits your family style: a sport, a board game, a video game, a word game, etc. Before starting the game, have each player say or write down three words that describe how they are feeling. Put the words on the left side of a T-chart. Then, play the game. After the game, have each player say or write down three new words that describe how they are feeling. Put the words on the right side of the T-chart. Compare.

UNO	
excited	joy
tired	peace
nervous	relief

RIGHT TO PLAY: REMEMBER ME

Review the rules of the game *Remember Me* under the Right to Play section of the notes on page 30 of the book. Play a few rounds of Remember Me with your family and/or your child and some friends.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT RESILIENCE:

- [La Frontera \(2018\)](#)
- [Nya's Long Walk \(2019\)](#)
- [The Coquíes Still Sing: A Story of Home, Hope, and Rebuilding \(2022\)](#)