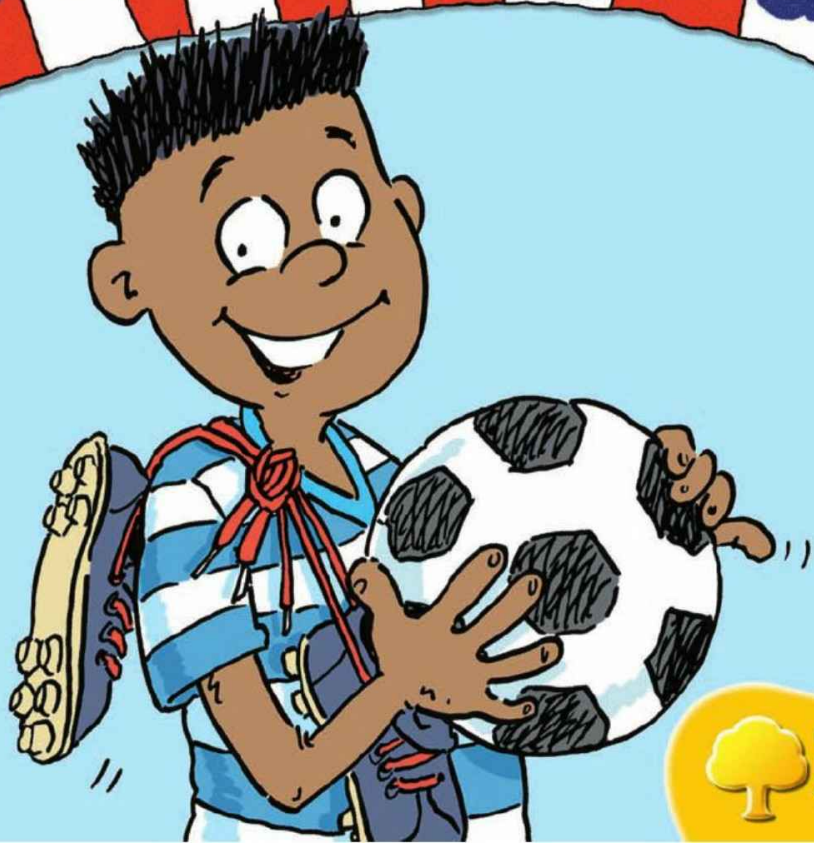


Snapdragons

Aif Saves the Day



Mal Peet
Andy Hammond



Oxford
Reading
Tree



What is the story about?

Alf loves football but isn't good at dribbling, passing or shooting. One day, when he's watching a football match at school, he saves the ball from hitting the dinner lady's tray. The coach tries him out in goal, and Alf discovers he is a really good goalkeeper.

Talk together

Read the title and look through the book, talking about Alf's feelings. Use the special football vocabulary in the book such as 'dribbling', 'passing' and 'shooting'. Identify the dinner lady and the coach in the pictures.

Read the story

- Listen to your child read, and share the enjoyment of the story with him/her.
- On page 2, to help your child read 'football' and 'everything' say, if necessary, "Can you spot two words in this word?" (foot/ball; every/thing)
- Praise your child for reading in a cheerful voice up to page 9, and then changing the tone for "But he wasn't good at football."
- On pages 16 and 19, say, "Can you read the speech bubbles in a shouting voice?"
- Practise re-reading the final four pages in a very expressive way.

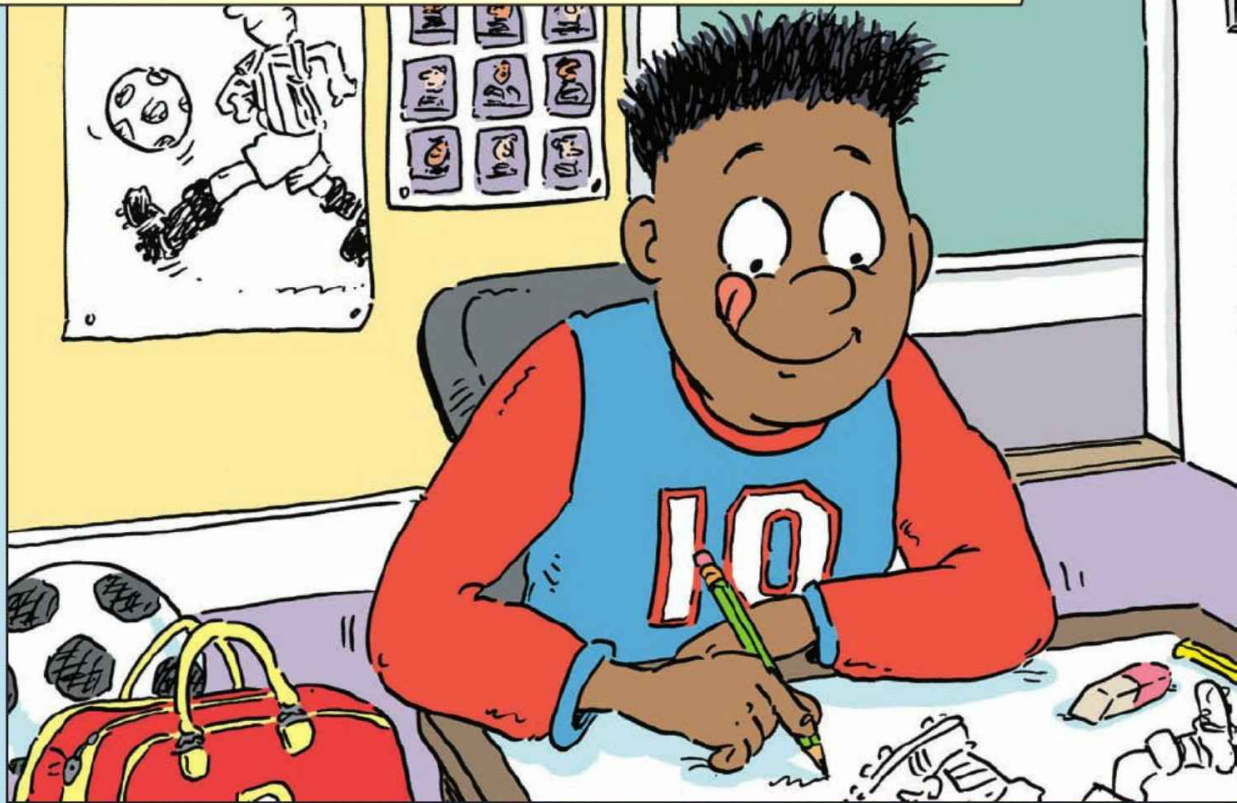
Alf Saves the Day



Story by Mal Peet
Pictures by Andy Hammond

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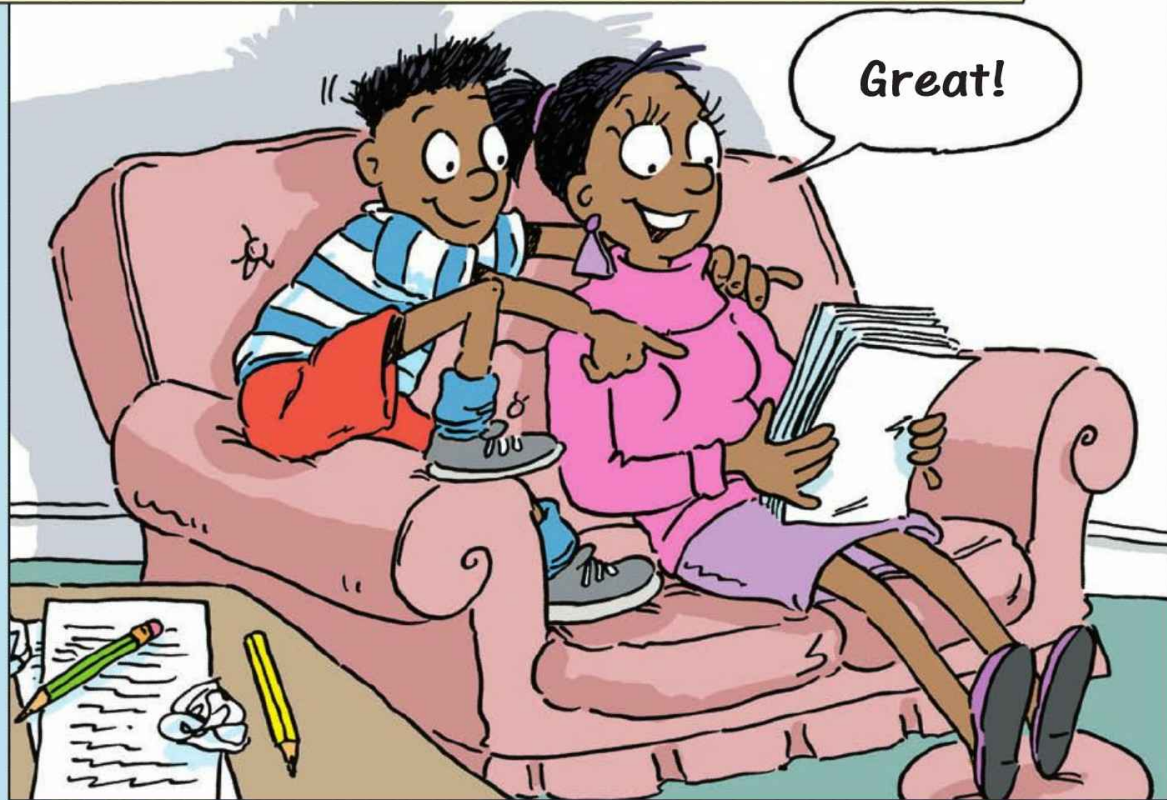
Alf loved football. He loved everything about football.



Alf loved drawing football pictures. He drew good football pictures.



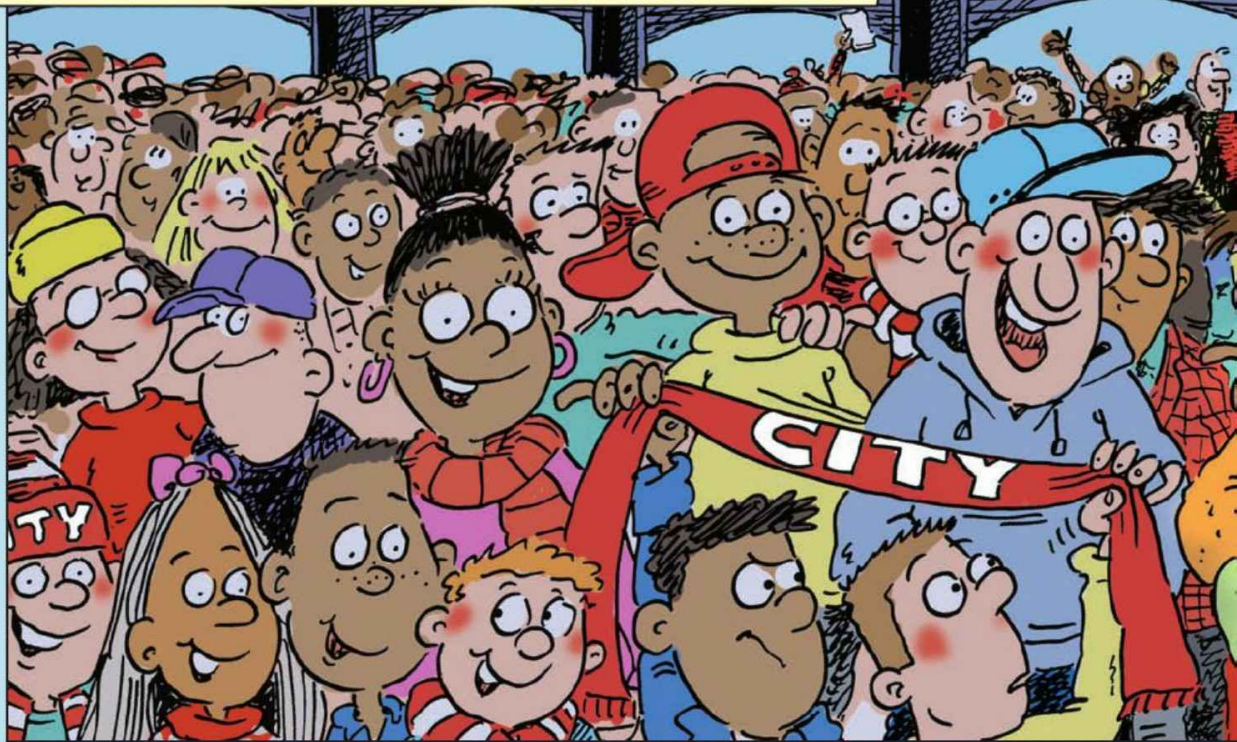
Alf loved writing football stories. He was good at football stories.



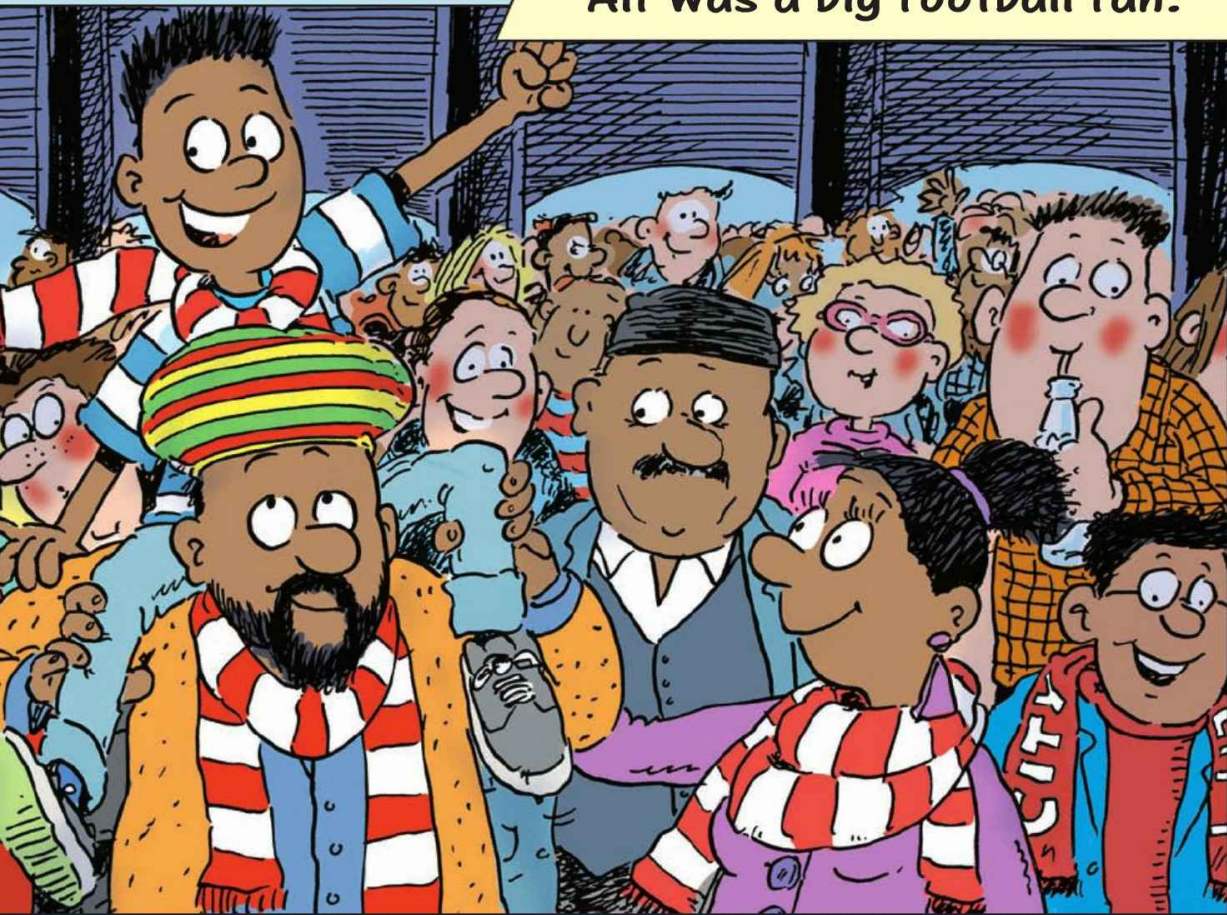


**Alf loved watching football on television.
He cheered and cheered.**

Alf loved going to football matches.
There were lots of people and
everyone cheered.



Alf was a big football fan.



At school, lots of children played football.
Lots of boys and lots of girls played.





Alf really, really wanted to be a football star. But he wasn't good at football.

Some children were good at dribbling.
Alf wasn't good at dribbling.



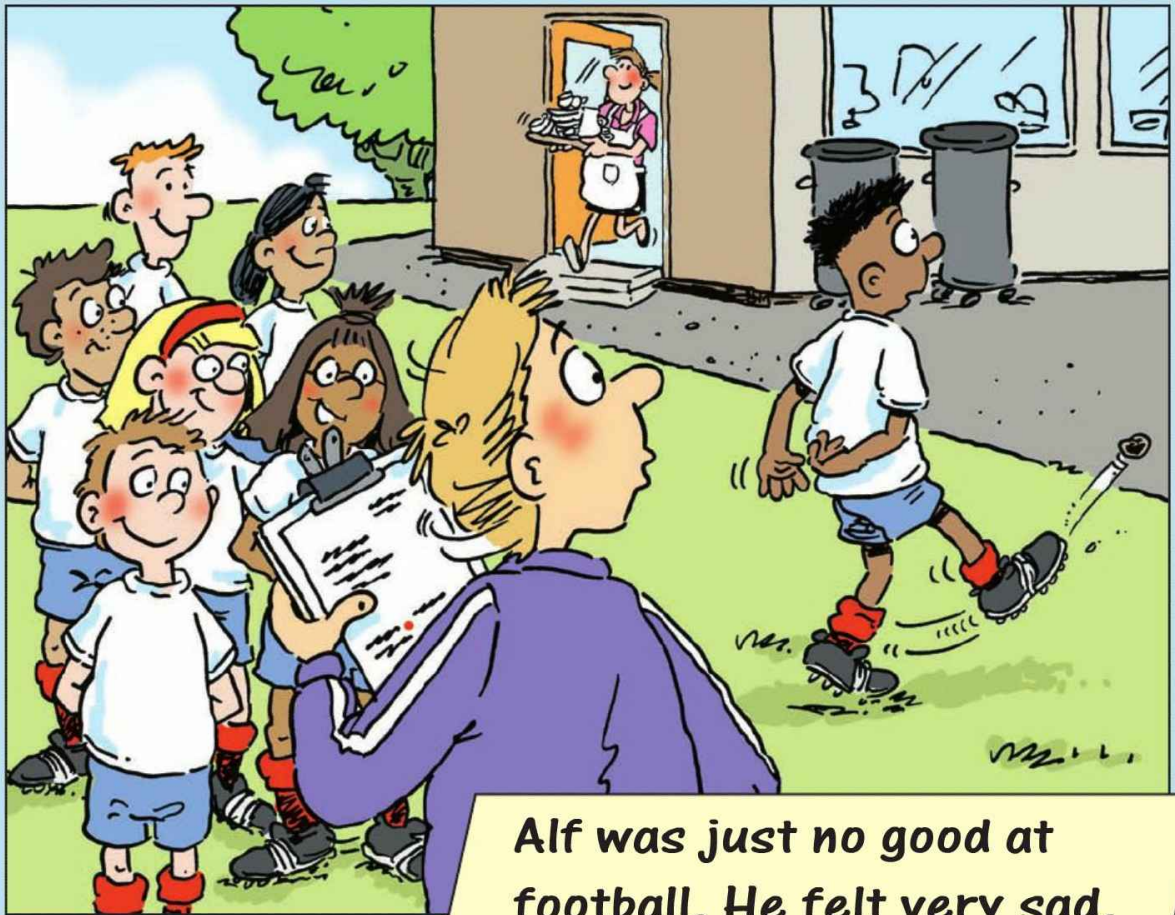
Some children were good at passing.
Alf wasn't good at passing.



Alf wasn't good at shooting.



He wasn't good at heading.



Alf was just no good at football. He felt very sad.

The football coach picked five children for one team. He picked five children for the other team.



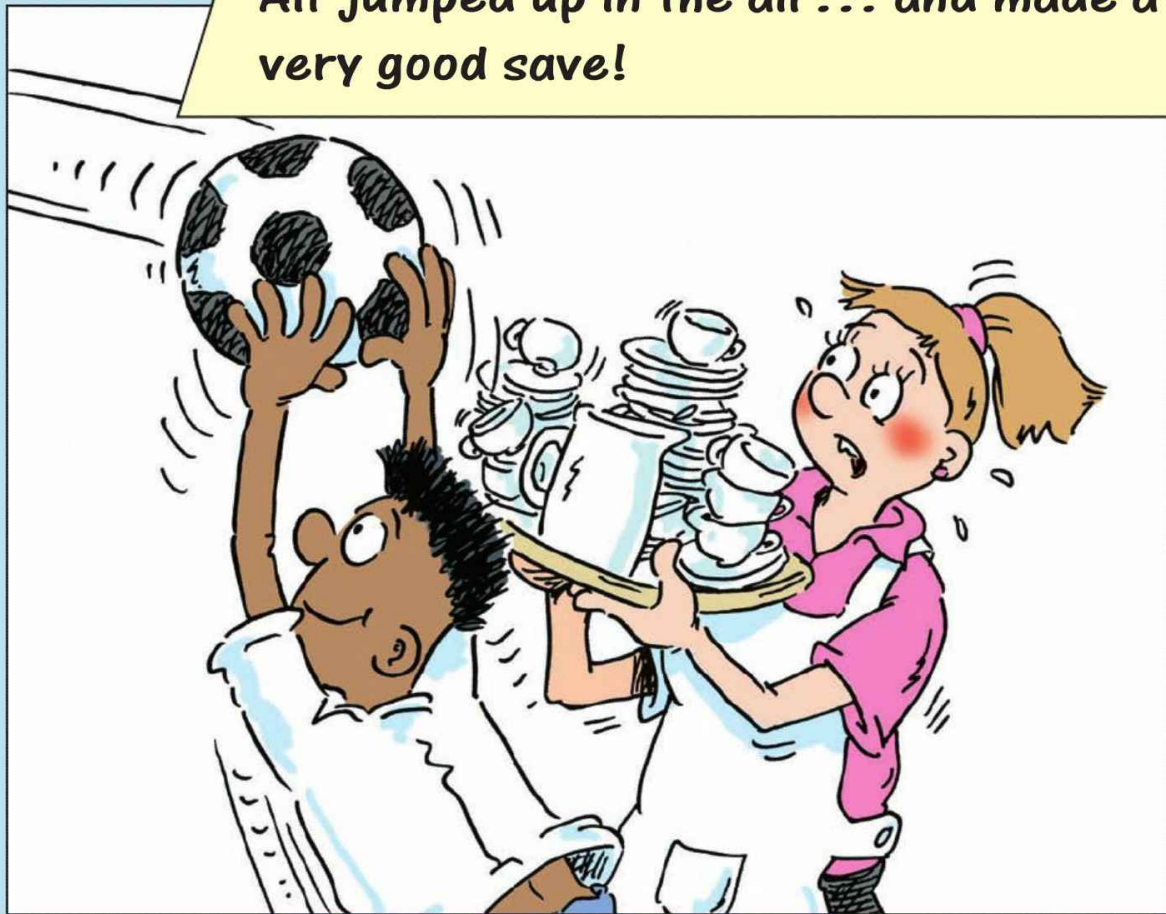


Alf went to watch the football match.

Suddenly, Alf shouted, "Look out!"



Alf jumped up in the air... and made a very good save!



All the children cheered. The football players cheered. The football coach cheered.



The dinner lady cheered.



The football coach said, "Alf, come with me."



Alf stood in the goal and the coach took a shot. It was a good shot, but Alf saved it.



Alf saved the next shot, too. And the next one. He saved every shot!





All the children cheered.

Alf was a very good goalkeeper. He was good at playing football after all!



Play a game

Sequencing

This game helps your child understand how stories are constructed, which will help him/her to tell and write good stories.

- Talk to your child about the main events in the story, or use a similar story based on real life.
- For each event, draw a cartoon picture with your child, drawing big speech bubbles for the characters' words.
- Help your child to fill in the speech bubbles.
- Add some figures and speech bubbles yourself, and then read it through together.

Other ideas

- Talk about what it feels like not to be good at something, and some possible solutions. Use an example from your own experience, or from a member of the family or a story.
- Discuss other games being played on television, or look through books and sports magazines. Compare different sports, e.g. the different kinds of balls used in soccer, rugby, golf, tennis.
- Help your child collect pictures for a scrapbook about their favourite sports. Help him/her label the pictures.

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Story by Mal Peet
Pictures by Andy Hammond

Alf Saves the Day

Alf loves football, but is he any good at playing it?

This story practises these words:

but five good loved next one some very were



Stage 5 Snapdragons

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Little Dragon	The Chatterbox Turtle
Alf Saves the Day	The Sandwich that Jack Made

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