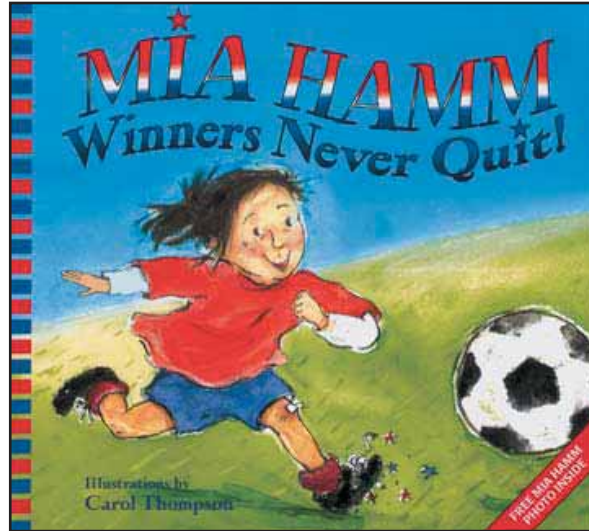




# Read-Aloud Family Event

## Winners Never Quit!

By Mia Hamm  
Illustrations by Carol Thompson



### Set Read-Aloud Stage

- ★ This book by U.S. soccer star, Mia Hamm, focuses on how difficult it is for children to lose. The little girl in this book loves to play soccer, and she learns that it's better to play and lose than not to play at all.
- ★ Extra things you can do to make the read-aloud special include having some soccer equipment to show such as balls, goalie gloves, shoes, and shin guards. You can display the signed photo of Mia Hamm (found in the book) for everyone to see after the read-aloud.

### Read-Aloud Warm-Up

- ★ Begin by asking if anyone likes to play sports. Have them name the sport and briefly say what they like about it. Ask if they like to win, and then ask if they like to lose.
- ★ Show the book's back cover and ask if anyone has ever heard of Mia Hamm. Explain that she is an honored Olympic Gold Medalist and World Cup champion soccer player. She wrote this book about a little girl named Mia who loved to play . . . soccer (let the children guess).
- ★ Show the front cover and point to the words as you read the book's title. Have children make predictions about what they think this story is about. Then say, "Let's read and find out if you are right."



Connecting  
Connecting story events to their own experiences helps children understand and relate personally to the people and events in the story.

### During Read-Aloud

- ★ As you read the story, incorporate these read-aloud strategies. Mark the pages where you plan to ask questions or have a discussion. Show the pictures, explain words, and ask the suggested questions in the appropriate spots.
  - Explain these words as you read:
    - ❑ In soccer a **goal** is a score earned when the ball is kicked into the net.
    - ❑ A **goalie** is the player who guards the net and tries to keep the other team from scoring by keeping the ball from entering the net.
    - ❑ The goalie **saves the ball** when she keeps the ball from going into the net.
    - ❑ To **plead** is to beg.
    - ❑ To **pass the ball** in soccer is to kick it to another player on the same team.



Winners Never Quit!  
This story has a *moral*. Explain that a moral is a message that an author uses to teach a popular belief about how people should behave. The story's moral is that "winners never quit." Have a brief discussion about what this means and why it might be true. Children's comprehension of what they read improves when they recognize story structure and understand characteristics of our language.



- Have someone briefly explain how players score in soccer by kicking the ball into the goal. This is a great way to explain many of the vocabulary words.
- When you read the words *tap, tap, tap* and *smack*, point out that this type of word is an example of **onomatopoeia**. That means it spells and says the sound that it makes. Have children say this big word with you — onomatopoeia. Listen for these onomatopoeia words to be repeated again in the story. When you read them again, ask if anyone remembers what these words are called. Have children identify other examples of onomatopoeia.

## Read-Aloud Discussion

Conduct a brief discussion using some of these suggestions:

- ★ Mia really didn't like to lose; but ask children why she decided to join the team and play again. Ask children if there are times when they are part of a team other than sports. This might include working in a learning group at school or singing in a choir. Have children describe ways in which being on a team is different from doing things on your own—ways in which it's easier and ways in which it's more difficult.
- ★ After reading the story, have children briefly retell the sequence of events. Apply the PEER sequence for Dialogic Reading. After they mention an event in the story, evaluate that response to see if it's accurate and expand on it adding details that may have been omitted. Repeat your initial question about that event and encourage children to include some of the expanded details. Then move on to the next main story event and repeat the sequence.
- ★ Encourage families to get this book and read it together at home. Point out that there is a message from Mia Hamm at the end of the story and a photo gallery of her growing up as a soccer player. There is also an autographed picture of her playing in the 2000 Olympics.

### PEER Sequence

Dialogic Reading is a powerful read-aloud strategy because it involves the listener and extends oral language and print comprehension. The **PEER** sequence for Dialogic Reading says to **Prompt** the child with a question about the story, **Evaluate** the child's response, **Expand** on the child's response, and **Repeat** the initial question to check that the child understands the new learning.

## Read-Aloud Warm-Up

Take no more than five minutes to ask parents and children if they noticed some of the strategies you used that helped bring this book to life.

- ★ Mention that when you use new words it helps if you tell what they mean within the context of the story so that children understand the word related to how it is used. This helps children learn and remember the meanings of new words. Does anyone remember any of the new words or phrases introduced with this book? Goal, goalie, save the ball, plead, and pass the ball. Explaining new words in context also helps build vocabulary.
- ★ You used different types of questions to help children think about the story and connect it to their own experiences.
- ★ You explained story structure and characteristics of language to help children understand the story better. Discussing characteristics of stories and of language help teach children comprehension strategies.
- ★ You used the Dialogic Reading strategy to extend understanding about the story and the sequence of events. Dialogic Reading is a powerful read-aloud strategy because it involves the listener and extends oral language and print comprehension.

### Questions

Using open-ended and "wh" questions (such as who, what when, where, why) increases talk about the book and helps children focus on details. It supports comprehension and builds vocabulary. It also helps children relate story events to experiences in their own lives.



Distribute the bookmarks and *The Family Guide to the Book Fair* (found at [www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/family](http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/family)) to all parents. Let them know that these great tools are filled with reading strategies, tips, and information about how young children learn.



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