

# The Missing Ball

Ben and Leo played football most days after school. They always used the same old ball.

One afternoon, Ben arrived at the field first. The ball was not there. He looked near the goal. He checked by the fence. Nothing. When Leo arrived, Ben crossed his arms.

“You didn’t bring it,” he said.

“I thought you had it,” Leo replied.

Ben frowned. “You always bring it.”

Leo shook his head. “I left it by the shed yesterday.”

They stood quietly for a moment. The field felt empty without the ball.

Then Leo pointed. “Wait. What’s that?”

Near the shed, something round peeked out from the grass.

Ben jogged over.

He laughed. “The mower must have pushed it.”

Leo smiled. “Good thing we checked.”

Ben picked up the ball. “Sorry,” he said.

Leo nodded. “It happens.”

They walked back to the field together.

## ***Parent Guide – The Missing Ball (Level 2)***

### **Session 1 - Reading to**

You read the text to them. They listen.

After reading, these questions are optional. They focus on the problem at the start and how Ben feels.

#### **What was the problem at the start of the story?**

You might hear - The ball was missing. They couldn't find the ball.

If not - Point to the sentences where Ben looks near the goal and by the fence. Reread them and stop.

#### **How did Ben feel when Leo arrived?**

You might hear - He was annoyed. He was upset.

If not - Point to "Ben crossed his arms." Reread and finish.

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### **Session 2 - Echo reading**

You read one line. They repeat it back.

After reading, these questions are optional. They focus on why each boy thought the other had the ball.

#### **Why did Ben think Leo had the ball?**

You might hear - Leo always brings it. He usually brings the ball.

If not - Point to “You always bring it.” Reread and move on.

#### **Why did Leo think Ben had it?**

You might hear - He left the ball by the shed. He thought Ben would get it.

If not - Point to “I left it by the shed yesterday.” Reread and stop.

## ***Parent Guide – The Missing Ball (Level 2)***

### **Session 3 – Choral reading**

You read the story together at the same time.

After reading, these questions are optional. They focus on how the problem is solved and how the field feels without the ball.

#### **How does the field feel without the ball?**

You might hear - Empty. Different.

If not - Reread the sentence “The field felt empty without the ball.”

Reread and stop.

#### **What helped them solve the problem?**

You might hear - They looked again. Leo noticed something.

If not - Point to the sentence “Near the shed, something round peeked out from the grass” and reread it.

## ***Parent Guide – The Missing Ball (Level 2)***

### **Session 4 – Partner reading**

Take turns reading one sentence each.

After reading, these questions are optional. They focus on what really happened to the ball and what Ben’s actions show.

#### **What really happened to the ball?**

You might hear - The mower pushed it. It got moved.

If not - Point to the sentence “The mower must have pushed it.”

Reread and stop.

#### **What does Ben do at the end that shows us something about him?**

You might hear - He says sorry. He admits he was wrong.

If not - Point to the sentence “Sorry,’ he said.” Reread and finish.

*If this feels manageable, the story bundles continue the same structure without extra planning.*