Sparkly Charkalee Phronesis ®

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Padma Sherni and Summer Basketball Camp

This is a fictional short story.

Surya, Bina, Luke, and Jenny visited Padma Sherni often. They had summer vacation and were trying to think of how to spend their time. They lived in the same neighborhood. On Sunday, they went swimming together at Jenny"s house which had a pool. On Monday, they played basketball together at Luke’s house. On Tuesday, they played their musical instruments in their music band where they practiced together once a week. On Wednesday, they drew pictures for a sidewalk chalk drawing contest and painting class. On Thursday, they had soccer practice. On Friday, they watched a movie together. Saturday, they baked cookies and brownies together for a bake sale fund raiser for school. !n Sunday, they decided to volunteer at a library to help put books away after participating in a reading group and story time. They had a busy schedule and enjoyed one another’s company.

They went to the playground the following week where there were sign ups for a two week basketball camp. The boys played in one group and the girls played in another. They would get together for lunch at the playground at the picnic tables and trade snacks and stories about their practice sessions. They learned that basketball counted the scores in four parts called (quarters) Each basket was worth either one point, two points, or three points depending on how close or far away from the hoop a player tried to throw the ball from. Getting the ball in the hoop or making a basket from further away gave more points. They also learned there were five players on each team: a center who stood in the middle, two forwards that stood at the back near the hoop, and two guards that stood in front of the center. The goal was to make a basket on the other side of the basketball court from the side each team started from.

The basketball coaches told the campers that a bus would arrive from another neighborhood for a friendly basketball game the next day. Some of the kids looked forward to meeting new people while others were concerned about if the home team was prepared enough to win the game. Both teams had practiced for two weeks running around the basketball court, and dribbling the ball, passing the ball, instead of hogging the ball, and making free throws to get the ball to swish into the hoop. Then the new kids arrived everyone noticed that they were fast, and swift, and had obviously practiced a lot.

The parents sat in the bleachers to cheer and encourage both the boys’ and the girls’ teams. At first the basketball seemed to fly right past the home teams. The boys" team was evenly matched through half time with one point each at the end of the first quarter. Then a really tall kid, named Alfonso showed up as the center player on the visiting team and Patrick, the center from the home team was overshadowed by the height. Patrick decided if he got the ball he would pass to his team mates after Alfonso made several baskets in a row. By halftime or the second quarter the teams were still evenly matched with five points each. Alfonso’s team eventually scored more with seven points to five point in the third quarter. Then Patrick got a chance to make two free throws near the hoop and the teams were evenly matched again at the start of the fourth quarter with seven points each. Everyone felt tense and excited. Then Surya and Luke received the ball and passed and dribbled back and forth until Patrick was free. Alfonso was tall and blocked one of Patrick’s attempts to make a basket, but then Patrick quickly reached out to grab the ball on the rebound and aimed and threw the ball carefully for a successful swish to make the score eight points to seven points.

Then, Alfonso made a basket from far away which gave him three points just as the timer buzzed to win the game. The other team was good and had a star player. The teamwork of the home team was good effort. They all shook hands and said “good game” with good sportsmanship at the end.

People clapped, and then joined the parents to watch and cheer on the girls’ game which was just finishing also. The girls also were outscored at the start of the fourth quarter with eight points to seven points. Padma Sherni cheered on her teammates: Jenny and Bina and others from the bleachers. She had already played in the first quarter and made a basket. Then she changed playing time with Jenny. Bina made a basket and the teams were scored evenly with eight points each at the end of the fourth quarter which indicated overtime and one more extra quarter to finish the game. Both of the teams were fast, could dribble and pass the ball well and aim with amazing skills to make the basketball swish into the hoop. Padma Sherni rejoined the game during overtime. Then Jenny made a basket and eventually Bina made another one, and Padma Sherni made one more for a score of eleven to seven points and the home team won.

The home team and visiting teams shook hands and showed good sportsmanship smiling genuinely and saying “good game”. The home team then treated the visiting team to pizza, fruit, water and juice, or dessert they enjoyed brownies and cookies. The visiting team then invited the home team to their neighborhood the following week just for friendly practice games. Now the home team became the visiting team. They travelled by bus and sang songs along the way. They were treated to basketball coaching and then pizza, drinks, and dessert. Everyone, including Padma Sherni and her friends, enjoyed the summer basketball camp.