

JiNA JEONG

Project Partners



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Chapter 1



READING PAIRS

“It was fun watching your soccer game on Saturday,” Jina Jeong said to her friend Sofia. They had just walked into their classroom together.

“I’m glad you came,” Sofia said.

“It was so fun when you scored!”

Jina said.

Sofia and Jina sat down at their desks. Their teacher, Ms. Hunter, began talking.

“We’re starting a new reading program this week,” Ms. Hunter said. “Everyone will be paired up with a classmate. At least once a week, each of you will practice reading aloud to one another.”

Jina was excited. She loved reading! She hoped her partner was one of her best friends.

“You’ll choose books to read together,” Ms. Hunter said. “At the end of the program, your assignment is to write your own story.”

Jina felt sure she would be paired with a friend. Besides Sofia, her other best friends Bella and Chloe were in her class too. Even Ethan or Jerome would be okay, although they might have a hard time agreeing on a book.



“When you come back from recess, everyone will find the name of their reading partner on their desk,” Ms. Hunter said.

At recess, Jina joined her friends on the swings. “I hope we all get put together as reading buddies,” Jina said.

“Yeah, that would be great!” Chloe said.

Suddenly, a soccer ball flew under Jina, just missing her feet. “Where did that come from?” Jina asked.

Sofia pointed to a group of kids on the field. “Lots of kids have been playing soccer since the new boy came,” she said. “I think he’s really good.”

“What’s his name again?” Bella asked.

“Liam? Lucas!”

The girls watched as two boys went chasing after the ball. Lucas got there first, but rather than kick it toward the goal, he kicked it sideways to a girl Jina didn't know. The girl quickly sent the ball flying past the goalie. The girl's teammates cheered.

Lucas had only been in their class one week. Jina wasn't sure she had heard him say more than a few words.

As they walked into their classroom after recess, kids ran to their desks. Each one had a card with a name written on it.

"All right! We're buddies!" Jina saw Ethan waving a card with Jerome's name on it. He and Jerome high-fived one another.

Jina quickly walked to her desk. But when she saw the name written down, she stopped. It was the one person she not only wasn't friends with, but she hardly knew him at all.

Lucas.

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